112
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2005

MacAddict

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XT

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YOUR PDA

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- **Calendars**
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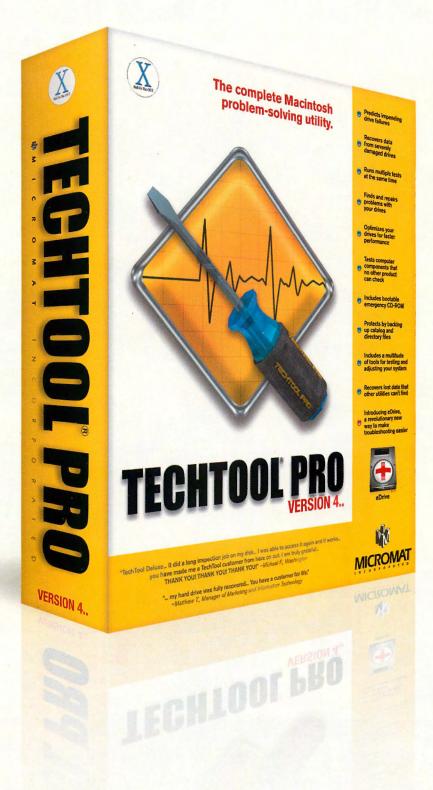
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VERSION 4..

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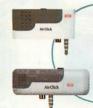### Radio, Remote, and Recorder for iPod
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features

21 Get in Sync!

Given up trying to juggle email and contacts on multiple Macs, your PDA, and a mobile phone? Here's how to make your gazillion gadgets live together in perfect harmony.
by Deborah Shadovitz

30 'Pod People

Whether you're a snobbish audiophile, hypergeek, gym fiend, or family man who spends lots of time in the minivan, we've got iPod gear to suit your lifestyle.
by the editors of *MacAddict*

36 Wireless Buzzcronyms

The world of Wi-Fi is a bubbling stew of acronyms, arcane protocols, and endless technobabble. Let this field guide be your Rosetta Stone.
by Niko Coucouvanis

how to

IF IT LOOKS LIKE YOU DON'T EVEN CARE ABOUT YOUR
WORK HOW CAN YOUR CLIENT?

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QUICK TIPS
FROM THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

➜ **SYNCHRONOUS**
If you use your Palm OS PDA with more than one computer, sync it with the one on which you enter most of your new contacts and to-do items, and then have the Palm overwrite the information on the others.
From "Get in Sync!", p21.

➜ **IMPENETRABLE**
If you're using a non-Apple keyboard that has no Eject key, you can just hold down F12 to open up your disc tray.

To access Dashboard, just tap F12.
From *Ask Us*, **p58.**

➜ **SUBFREQUENT**
Tekkeon's myTune FM iPod-to-radio car adapter works better than most because it operates at 87.7KHz and 87.9KHz—below most broadcast FM frequencies.
From "'Pod People," p30.

➜ **VOLUMETRIC**
To adjust a track's volume in iTunes, select it, press Command-I, click Options, and fiddle with the slider for Volume Adjustment.
From "Back Up Your iTunes Tunes," p62.

Why upgrade your systems?
(Because great ideas deserve great technology.)

112 **Mac***Addict*

the disc

What's a better assortment of apps for the Disc: a couple of heavyweights or a passel of nifty lil' apps? How about *both*? This month we've got demos of such industry leaders as Macromedia's Dreamweaver 8, Native Instruments' Kontakt 2, and Mathematica CalcCenter 3, plus a ton more—74 items in all!

**Work Smar
Play Har**

All the apps you need to be more productive and more creative— and to have a boatload of fun!

Image Tricks
freeware

Got Tiger? Dying to test-drive all the powers of its Core Image filters? Here's an app that'll get you started.

Dreamweaver 8
trial

Dreamweaver has always been a leader in Web design; this upgrade brings it even further down the road to perfection.

Kontakt 2
trial

If you're into sampling, you already know of Kontakt 2's awesome capabilities. If you're not, then now's the time.

AUDIO & MUSIC
Audiocorder (OS X) 4.5.0 *shareware*
AudioFinder 3.8.3 *shareware*
ID Tunes 1.7 *shareware*
Kontakt 2.0.1.007 *trial*
Max Magic Microtuner 1.5.2 *shareware*
Peak Pro 5 Demo Video
Sound Byte (OS X) 2.6.1 *shareware*

FUN & GAMES
BeerMeister 3.1 *shareware*
Betty's Beer Bar 1.0 *demo*
BoXiKoN 1.3.7 *demo*
BreakQuest 1.0 *demo*
Burning Monkey Mahjong 2 *demo*
Digby's Donuts 1.0 *demo*
Downfall 2.5.2 *shareware*
FRS Coloring Book 1.0 *trial*
Marbles Deluxe 1.0 *demo*

GRAPHICS & MULTIMEDIA
Easy Card 3.1.0 *shareware*
History for Adobe InDesign 2.1 *trial*
iDive 1.4 *shareware*
Image Tricks 1.1 *freeware*
iWatermark 3.0.2 *demo*
MacCapture 1.0 *demo*
Slideshow Magic 4.0.1 *shareware*
ZeboPhoto 1.7.1 *shareware*

INTERFACE
Docktopus 1.0.1 *demo*
FolderGlance 1.5 *donationware*
iClock 2.5 *shareware*
IconBuilder 8.0.1 *shareware*
Namely 1.6 *freeware*
Silk 2.1.1 *shareware*
World Clock Deluxe 4.2 *shareware*

INTERNET & COMMUNICATION
AB for Web 1.2 *demo*
Chatalog 1.2 *demo*
Dreamweaver 8 *trial*
GarageSale 1.9 *shareware*
Little Snitch 1.2 *shareware*
PhoneAgent 1.2.3 *shareware*
PhoneDirector 1.0.7 *shareware*
PhoneManager 1.1.5 *shareware*
PictureSync 1.4.2 *shareware*
RSS DreamFeeder 1.1.2 *shareware*
TrendyMac 1.0.4 *demo*

PRODUCTIVITY
Alarm Clock Pro 7.4.1 *shareware*
Assignment Planner 2.0 *shareware*
ConceptDraw Mindmap Pro 4.0 *trial*
DEVONagent 1.7 *demo*
DEVONthink Pro 1.0 *demo*
iEvents 2.5.3 *shareware*
iList Data 3.0.1 *demo*
Mathematica CalcCenter 3 *demo*
NoteBook 2.0 *demo*
Omni Productivity Bundle *demo*
simpleDays 3.3.1 *shareware*
Studiometry 3.0.7 *trial*
You Synchronize 2.1.1 *trial*

UTILITIES
AB Transfer 1.8.0 *demo*
Album Cover Finder 3.3.5 *trial*
CDFinder 4.5 *shareware*
ChronoSync 3.1.0 *shareware*

Cocktail (Tiger Edition) 3.6.5 *shareware*
Cocktail (Panther Edition) 3.5.4 *shareware*
Cocktail (Jaguar Edition) 3.5 *shareware*
Delicious Library 1.5.3 *demo*
DiskTracker (Classic) 2.3.2 *shareware*
DiskTracker (OS X) 2.3.2 *shareware*
FontAgent Pro 3.0.2 *trial*
Font Pilot 2.0.3 *shareware*
LogSurfer 1.2.2 *freeware*
Smart Crash Reports 1.0.1 *freeware*
Snapz Pro X 2.0.2 *shareware*
SoftRAID 3.2.1 *demo*
TechRestore Demo Video
Tidy Up 1.0.5 *shareware*
Unlockupd 1.0 *freeware*

SPONSORS
Betty's Beer Bar 1.0 *demo*
BreakQuest 1.0 *demo*
Burning Monkey Mahjong 2 *demo*
DEVONagent 1.7 *demo*
DEVONthink Pro 1.0 *demo*
Digby's Donuts 1.0 *demo*
FontAgent Pro 3.0.2 *trial*
Marbles Deluxe 1.0 *demo*
NoteBook 2.0 *demo*
Omni Productivity Bundle *demo*
Peak Pro 5 Demo Video
SoftRAID 3.2.1 *demo*
TechRestore Demo Video

Staff Video: The iPod planck
Take a tour down iPod memory lane—and get a sneak peek at the final step in iPod evolution: the iPod planck, named after the distance at which classical concepts of gravity and space-time lose their meaning.

UPGRADE
If you don't receive the Disc with your copy of *MacAddict*, you might want to consider upgrading. Each monthly Disc contains cool demos, useful shareware and freeware, and the inimitable *MacAddict* Staff Video. To get 12 issues of *MacAddict* that include this value-packed disc with your subscription (prorated if necessary) for just $1 more per issue, call 888-771-6222—the operator will take care of everything.

Mac*Addict*

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The End of Television

A bit of advice: The next time Apple throws one of its product-announcement shindigs, go to whatever lengths necessary to wrangle an invitation. Lie. Cheat. Steal Walt Mossberg's ID. Become a world-renowned recording artist and offer to play for free. Do whatever it takes—you won't be disappointed in Steve Jobs's performance. He's good. He's very good.

Another bit of advice: Once you've made it into the auditorium and are among the pack o' panting pundits fixated on Steve's every word, try to keep a clear head. What's truly significant are not the products being announced, but the changes they bring to the entire digital ecology.

Take, for example, the new video-capable iPod and the media-center iMac G5. Droolworthy and groundbreaking as they may be, they are merely enablers of The Next Big Thing in digital content delivery. The first videos available on the iTunes Music Store are just baby steps on the way to comprehensive, personalized, on-demand entertainment. A few years from today—five? 10? 20?—broadcast video will be a shadow of its current self, and movie megaplexes will be closing faster than the Microsoft Media Center's window of opportunity. You and I will choose what we want to watch, when and where we want to watch it, much like we do today with the majority of our music.

The signs are everywhere. On-demand cable-TV content is catching on. Movie-ticket sales are down—not only because so many current movies are lousy, but because the movie-going experience has become both unpleasant and expensive. As bandwidth increases and video-compression technology improves, choice, comfort, and near-instant gratification will become the order of the digital day.

Sure, there are gnarly details to sort out—how much artists and writers will share in the take, the role of digital rights management, and so on—but the on-demand digital-entertainment-distribution train has left the station, and it ain't coming back.

Apple is starting small and stealthy in this video revolution; it's not even touting the new iPod as the "iPod video" à la the iPod photo, mini, shuffle, and nano. That's smart. It's just the latest iPod, and oh look, it plays video, too—as does most every Mac and PC on the planet. Steve has smarts, money, market share, and talent on his side. Don't bet against him. He's good. He's very good.

Enjoy, *Rik*

STAFF RANTS

Niko Coucouvanis FACT CHUCKER
What's your favorite among Apple's recent announcements? I love how one slide in Steve's presentation said that the new iMac comes with either a 160MB or 250MB hard drive—a typo so blatant that I could have caught it in my sleep. It's obviously a cleverly coded job offer for an eagle-eyed chimp like me.

Sean Molloy NUMEROLOGIST
What's your favorite among Apple's recent announcements? The fact that I can now download older episodes of *Lost*—I've only caught onto this crazy-awesome show recently, and I've still got a lot to catch up on. Now if I could only download, well, anything else I actually want.

Roman Loyola eMAC TORCH BEARER
What's your favorite among Apple's recent announcements? How 'bout a non-announcement: It's the end of the line for the eMac—Apple's most misunderstood Mac. If you compare the cost of the eMac to that of a Mac mini with a new display, keyboard, and mouse, the eMac was a good deal. Long live the eMac!

Mark Rosenthal MR. FUN
What's your favorite among Apple's recent announcements? I can only really comment about an announcement that wasn't made, the announcement that I've been hoping to hear for months … even years. That is, the introduction of the first iPod that *wiggles*. Well, maybe next year.

Jake Widman PUNDIT WANNABE
What's your favorite among Apple's recent announcements? The video iPod. Not because I want a video iPod, particularly, but because now I won't have to keep reading all the breathless speculation about when we'll finally see a video iPod. But wait—when do you think we'll see one with a camera in it?

Peter Marshutz FASHIONISTA
What's your favorite among Apple's recent announcements? It's not an announcement, really, but more of a statement—a fashion statement, that is: For the first time in recent memory, Steve didn't appear in his trademark Levis, but instead in what looked like chinos. I'm surprised the punditocracy hasn't tried to read some deeper meaning into his wardrobe transformation.

Max AFICIONADO-DEE-O-DO
What's your favorite among Apple's recent announcements? Hands down, Steve's best announcement was that this year's musical guest would be Wynton Marsalis, who then proceeded to blow the room away with 17 minutes of pure genius—enough time for Apple's Web monkeys to get all the product announcements up on www.apple.com, thus scooping the assembled journalists.

comingsoon:january2006

Here's what our editors are preparing for the next issue of *MacAddict*.

Inkjets and lasers and dyes, oh my! We'll lead you through the deep woods of printer technology and show you **how to choose the best printer for your needs.** Our experts will explore the **heights, depths, and insides of the new iMac G5 and video iPod,** and our Field Guide will make you a **boss of gaming terminology.** We'll then pull into **The Sims 2 Body Shop** for a megamakeover, hack an old Webcam into **a stealthy night-vision cam,** tell you how to configure your home network for **remote access,** learn savvy **scanner secrets,** and dumb down your desktop to **resemble Windows.** Finally, we'll ruthlessly review Apple's new **iMac G5,** the new video **iPod,** Macromedia's **Flash 8,** Intuit's **Quicken 2006,** and a lot more.

First Steve said, "It's all about the music." Then Apple added photos— and now video.

A t an invitation- only event on October 12, 2005, Steve Jobs rolled out an onslaught of products and partnerships aimed squarely at advancing Apple's dominance of the digital-media world.

Not just a video iPod, but a video iPod available in both white and black. Oooh... Ahh...

STRAIGHT TO

FIFTH-GENERATION iPOD

The video iPod that's been the subject of rumors for months on end is finally here—but instead of being yet another model in the iPod line, the new 'Pod replaces the fourth-generation (4G) version. "This is the best music player we've ever made," said Steve Jobs during the press event—and he's right.

Equipped with a crisp, bright, 2.5-inch, 320-by-240-pixel color LCD screen, the 30GB ($299) and 60GB ($399) iPods can play 30-fps video encoded in H.264 or MPEG-4 at 320-by-240-pixel resolutions. If you want to play video on an external display, you'll have to shell out an extra $39 for the Universal Dock, which has connections for S-Video and composite-AV cables. You can add your own videos to the iPod by encoding them in H.264 or MPEG-4, and then importing them into iTunes 6.

If you like the slimness of the iPod nano, you'll love the svelte figures of the new iPods. The 30GB 'Pod is 30-percent thinner than the 20GB 4G-model, while the new 60GB unit is 12-percent thinner. One downer: Like with the iPod nano, the remote connector located near the headphone jack on 4G iPods is now gone, thus crippling third-party accessories that use that port.

iTUNES 6

What's a video iPod without video content? (Yeah, yeah, we know: a *music* iPod. Smart-ass.) The new iTunes 6 lets you purchase videos online, though this feature is clearly in its early stages—at launch, iTunes' video library included only 2,000 music videos; five TV shows from ABC and Disney (*Lost*, *Desperate Housewives*, *Night Stalker*, *The Suite Life of Zack & Cody*, and *That's So Raven*); and six Pixar shorts, all for $1.99 each. Expect new shows and networks to jump on the bandwagon if this delivery method proves to be a moneymaker.

Left: Photo Booth lets you mess around with Tiger's Core Image technology. Right: The hyper-simple Remote.

The purchased videos, however, have significant strings attached. They're at 320-by-240 resolution, they're copy-protected so you can't play them on unregistered Macs, and you can't burn them to discs. At $1.99, the price might be low enough to convert BitTorrent users who like to download (read "steal") full-screen versions of TV shows for free, but the inability to burn them to disc might be a deal-breaker.

Other new features include the ability to "gift" an iTunes Music Store product to another user, reviews written by iTMS customers, and a beta version of a Just For You section that provides customized (and tweakable) recommendations based on your buying habits.

NEW iMAC G5

If you've been waiting for a media-centric computer with Apple's traditional savvy and flair, check out the new iMac G5 (17-inch, 1.9GHz, $1,299; 20-inch, 2.1GHz, $1,699). The new iMac's improvements are visually subtle; shave half an inch off the original iMac G5, smooth down the corners a bit, and you get the idea. Look a little closer, and you'll find the marquee features: an integrated iSight camera just above the screen (more on that in a bit); and clinging magically (OK, magnetically) to the iMac's lower-right side, a simple six-button remote control that resembles an iPod shuffle. The IR sensor? Hidden behind the Apple logo. This is exactly the kind of style and grace we've come to expect from Apple.

But slapping on a remote does not a media center make—for that you need software, and Apple's new Front Row is the best 10-foot interface we have seen. (Yes, a 10-foot interface is one you use from further away, such as when lounging on your couch.) When you

VIDEO

fire up Front Row, it fades the standard Mac desktop into the background and replaces it with jumbo icons for accessing iTunes, iPhoto, videos, and TV shows you've bought via iTunes; it also shows the DVD currently in the iMac's 8X SuperDrive. Once you select one of the main icons, navigating through your media on Front Row's large-print display is a lot like navigating an iPod, complete with playlists, slideshows, album art,

Front Row gives couch potatoes easy remote-driven access to all the media files on their new iMac G5—and if thin is in, then thinner is inner.

onscreen status—the whole works.

The Apple Remote also works with iPods—after you buy the aforementioned Universal Dock—but that's *Universal* as in "comes with adapters for all current iPod models." Apple says that you can't use the new Dock as an IR receiver to add remote-control capabilities to older Macs—but we'll try anyway the minute we get our grubby little hands on one.

A nifty new app called Photo Booth jazzes up the old-school-department-store-photo-booth concept with a healthy dose of Apple's Quartz-fueled eye candy. Tapping into the Core Image technology of Mac OS 10.4 (Tiger), Photo Booth lets you smile at the iMac's integrated iSight camera and filter your image through 18 of Tiger's Core Image filters and effects: Sepia, X-ray, Thermal Camera, Stretch, Squeeze, Fish Eye, and more. And if you think that's cool, you'll love this part: Snap a shot, and the iMac's screen will flash white to illuminate the scene. Apple spokesfolks refused to give us official word on when or whether Photo Booth or Front Row will migrate to other Macs—but how could Apple deny the rest of us such awesome toys?
—*Niko Coucouvanis and Roman Loyola*

NEW **STUFF**

▶ PAYOLA-FREE RADIO
SoundBridge Radio
$399.99
www.rokulabs.com
Available: November 2005

You're listening to Wi-Fi in hi-fi!

Roku's latest musical device uses Wi-Fi to tap into your Internet connection and play Internet radio stations. The SoundBridge Radio also works with iTunes to play your unprotected music (sorry, no iTMS-purchased songs), plays audio from an SD card or MultiMediaCard, and functions as a clock radio.

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Steinberg's entry-level music-production app has a new interface, drag-and-drop MIDI support, a redesigned Track Inspector, new key commands and editing functions, and a lot more.

▶ GET CONNECTED
HomeDock
$99.99
www.dlodirect.com
Available: Now
This sexy little slab from DLO connects your iPod to your home entertainment center via RCA plugs or to your Mac via USB. It also charges your iPod, and the remote lets you control your 'Pod from the couch.

A 'Pod's home sweet home.

DROOL**WORTHY**

Sexy Stuff We Can't Wait to Get Our Mitts On

IMAGE COURTESY OF KLIPSCH

iGroove-y↑

Klipsch's **iGroove** ($279.99, www.klipsch.com) has a pair of fiber-composite 2.5-inch woofers and a pair of 1-inch MicroTractrix Horn–loaded tweeters. Your iPod charges while it's docked, and a wireless remote can control the iGroove and iPod from across the room.

IMAGE COURTESY OF HASSELBLAD

↑Bad-Ass 'Blad

Hasselblad's 22-megapixel **H2D** ($26,995, www.hasselblad.se) has sensors that are twice the physical size of today's 35mm sensors, an ISO range of 50 to 400, Hasselblad's FlexColor for accurate color reproductions, a 2.2-inch OLED display, the ability to shoot in Adobe DNG (it stands for "digital negative") format, FireWire 800 connectivity, and a whole lot more.

What's New

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Canon's EOS-1D Mark II N: Faster, SLR! Shoot! Shoot!

IMAGE COURTESY OF CANON

- Canon's **EOS-1D Mark II N** ($3,999, www.canon.com) is an 8.2-megapixel digital SLR. It has a 2.5-inch LCD, can fire 8.5 frames per second, and can shoot up to 22 RAW frames or 48 full-resolution JPEGs in a burst.

- Nikon's new 8-megapixel **Coolpix P1** ($549.95, www.nikonusa.com) and 5-megapixel **Coolpix P2** ($399.95) both have built-in Wi-Fi for wireless file transfers. Both cameras also have multiple settings for file transfers, including a shoot-and-transfer mode and transfer based on date.

- Olympus's **SP-500 UZ** ($379.99, www.olympusamerica.com) is a 6-megapixel camera with a 10x optical zoom. It has 27 shooting modes and a 2.5-inch LCD. Olympus's **Evolt E-500** ($799) is an 8-megapixel digital SLR with 25 shooting modes, a 2.5-inch LCD, and xD-Picture Card and CompactFlash compatibility.

- Ricoh's **Caplio R3** (price TBD, www.ricoh-usa.com) is a compact 5-megapixel camera with a 7.1x optical zoom. Its vibration-cancelling system stabilizes the image when it senses excessive camera shaking.

- Sony's **Cyber-shot DSC-R1** ($999.95, www.sonystyle.com) is a 10.3-megapixel camera that uses an APS (advanced photo system) CMOS image sensor and a Carl Zeiss Vario-Sonnar 5x-optical-zoom lens.

- Pentax's 6-megapixel **Optio S6** ($350, www.pentaximaging.com) measures a compact 3.4 by 2.1 by 0.7 inches. It has a 2.5-inch LCD and 3x optical zoom.

- Leica's 8.4-megapixel **D-Lux 2** (price TBD, www.leica-camera.com) has 4x optical zoom and a stylish aluminum body.—*Michelle Victoria*

Intel 101

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

A MONTHLY GUIDE TO INTEL BUZZWORDS

NORTH BRIDGE AND SOUTH BRIDGE

What they are: Bridge chips control a microprocessor's communications with the rest of the computer and its peripherals. Typically, the North Bridge communicates with RAM and graphics, while the South Bridge communicates with such I/O goodies as USB, FireWire, and hard drives.

What the Apple equivalents are: Apple designs custom bridge chips for its machines, but instead of identifying them as North Bridge and South Bridge chips, it gives them individual names. For example, the equivalent of the North Bridge in a dual-processor Power Mac G5 is called the U3H; in an iMac G5, it's called the U3 Lite—the reason for its *Lite* designation may be because it hands off its PCI-communication duties to its South Bridge equivalent, named Shasta (called K2 in the more-powerful Macs). PowerBooks, iBooks, and Mac minis combine both North Bridge and South Bridge functions into a single chip called Intrepid.

Why you should care: Intel, like Apple, makes a variety of North Bridge and South Bridge chips with different levels of performance. An Intel-box manufacturer—which Apple is about to become—can shop on Intel's Web site to learn the capabilities of the various bridge chips. You can check out Intel's offerings yourself to find out whether the ones Apple chooses for its upcoming Mactel machines are Performance, Mainstream, or Value models (www.intel.com/products/chipsets/index.htm is a good place to start). Also, Intel recently demonstrated a Pentium M prototype with the North Bridge's graphics controller and memory hub (GMCH) capabilities right on the chip itself—a development that should speed performance.—*Rik Myslewski*

ILLUSTRATION BY JAMES F. KRAUSS

Bug of the Month

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

MAC OS X FREEZES WHILE WEB-BROWSING

Sometimes your Mac freezes while you're browsing the Web—a Web page suddenly stops loading, your Mac becomes completely unresponsive, and you have to shut it down by pressing and holding the power button for 5 seconds. Double-plus uncool.

The root cause for this annoying behavior is a long-standing bug in *lookupd*—a Mac OS X Unix background process, also known as a *daemon*. The quick-and-dirty workaround is to simply power-cycle your network adapter (router, cable or DSL modem, et cetera) or disconnect an active Ethernet cable. Doing so will temporarily free lookupd from active network processes and allow normal system operation to resume. If the problem happens often, however, bring in the heavy artillery by using the following workarounds.

TIME OUT In the Terminal, set a higher timeout period for the lookupd process. Launch the Terminal (/Applications/Utilities) and enter the following commands, pressing Return after each one.

```
sudo mkdir /etc/lookupd
sudo sh -c "echo TimeToLive 300 > /etc/lookupd/hosts"
sudo sh -c "echo ValidateCache NO >> /etc/lookupd/hosts"
```

After entering these commands, restart your Mac, and power-cycle any network adapters (cable or DSL modems), AirPort base stations, other routers, and so on.

CLEAR CACHE Clear the lookupd cache, which may have corrupt files. Launch Terminal, type * lookupd -flushcache, and press Return.

TRY SOFTWARE Install Unlockupd (free, on the Disc or download from www.dshadow.com/software/unlockupd), which periodically checks lookupd and forces it to restart if it fails.

ON THE **DISC**

Unlockupd

Imagine the Colosseum, Eiffel Tower, and Egyptian pyramids all in the same coastal village.

GAME NEWS

ANOTHER CIVILIZATION RISING

Ever since the release of Civilization III: Complete, turn-based tactical gameplay has been alive and well—but it was really just practice for **Civilization IV**. Coming in 2006, the latest entry in game guru Sid Meier's empire-building series continues to balance religion, technology, diplomacy, and war—only this time in eye-popping 3D. Play as one of 18 nations from the U.S. to Mongolia, choose a historical leader, and guide your empire through human history from stone axes to space shuttles. Each civilization has unique military units and tactics and can claim victory through a combination of diplomatic maneuvering, technological and resource dominance, alliances, and—everyone's favorite—good ol' fashioned world conquest. Veteran Civ addicts will cheer at the better maps; improved interface (with more info selectable onscreen); and the ability to share wonder effects, resources, and territory in online multiplayer games.
—*Matt Osborn*

Civilization IV	
Price	TBD
Available	2006
Aspyr Media www.aspyr.com	

MASSIVELY CHEAP MMORPG

▶ Are you a massively multiplayer online role-playing gamer who's watching your gold purse? Give **Dofus** a try; this 2D anime-inspired tactical MMORPG (think Tactics Ogre on Game Boy Advance or Disgaea: Hour of Darkness on PS2) casts you as a cute fantasy character exploring the colorful world of Dofus in real time. When you fight monsters or other players, the action swings into turn-based play and becomes a chess-like battle of wits. Play in your Web browser for free for seven days—after that, it's $6.90 a month. Get it at www.dofus.com.—*MO*

Dofus doesn't cost mucho dinero.

Dofus	
Price	$6.90 per month
Available	Now
Ankama Studio www.dofus.com	

GET IN AT THE GROUND LEVEL

▶ **Second Life** is a go-anywhere, do-anything MMORPG—and now the $10 fee for a single account is history. So how does Second Life make its money? Land. If you want a permanent villa in the virtual world, new land costs you about $129 (plus $25 per month to maintain it). Owning virtual dirt is optional, but the online-real-estate-as-income-stream model could open up a new can of online worms.—*MO*

Second Life	
Price	Free
Available	Now
Linden Research http://secondlife.com	

Hmm ... don't you think those leg warmers are a bit over-the-top?

TIPS & TRICKS: COMMAND & CONQUER GENERALS: ZERO HOUR MODS

You've played through all the campaigns in the **Command & Conquer Generals: Zero Hour** expansion pack and dazzled the online world with your tactical brilliance. Now, armchair-general guy, try enhancing your game with these mods, brought to you by the good folks at Macologist (www.macologist.org).

MIDEAST CRISIS Mideast Crisis puts you in the middle of a struggle between Syria and Israel. Syria uses large amounts of old Russian technology, while Israel uses cutting-edge technology with precision. There are no campaigns, so playing online on GameRanger (www.gameranger.com) is your best bet. Oh, and make sure to keep the original Zero Hour audio tracks in the Tracks folder, or the game will crash on startup.

IMPERIAL ASSAULT Choose between the Galactic Empire or the Rebel Alliance in this Star Wars–themed mod. Install the patch that comes with the mod to better balance the two armies.—*MO*

SHAREWARE PICK OF THE MONTH

AudioFinder www.icedaudio.com $69.95 donationware

GarageBand, Soundtrack Pro, Logic Pro—whatever your audio-editing level, the one thing that these fab packages all lack is a utility for managing your audio samples. AudioFinder fills this space with loop editing, beat slicing, and bit- and sample-rate conversion—and that's just a sliver of what it can do. It can also easily break out individual sound samples from an audio track, save them as separate files, and turn them into a sampler instrument in Logic Pro. Here's how.—*Andrew Tokuda*

❶ Launch AudioFinder, then use the Browser to go directly to your audio files, or use the Scanner to search your audio files.

❷ With your multisample audio file selected, choose Signal > Sample Extractor.

❸ Once you extract samples from your original track, you can rename each one by Control-clicking it.

❹ You can turn an audio file into an EXS Instrument—Logic's software sampler—by Control-clicking it and choosing Convert > Convert To EXS Instrument.

❺ In Logic Pro, the EXS24 sampler now has a new patch created from the audio sample you extracted.

iPOD CASE OF THE MONTH

Incase's **Dinopods** ($30, www.goincase.com) are perfect for the paleontologist in your life—or anybody else who likes dinosaurs. Incase has four different Dinopod cases, each featuring a different dino: T-rex, stegosaurus, triceratops, and brontosaurus. Bonus fact: The brontosaurus, it turns out, didn't really exist—it's actually a misidentified apatosaurus. Hmm, so just what *was* in those brontosaurus burgers Fred Flintstone loved to devour?—*Michelle Victoria*

Long live the brontosaurus!

brontosaurus

.MAC UPGRADES

Apple has added new features and upgrades to its .Mac online service. Individual accounts still cost $99.95 per year, while Family Pack accounts (up to five users) are $179.95 annually.

STORAGE Standard members now get 1GB of combined storage. Family Pack accounts get 2GB of total storage.

GROUPS This new feature allows you to create groupings of users with access to a private Web site, message board, shared iCal schedule, member list, Group email, photo sharing, and more. You can create as many Groups as you want, and you're only limited by the amount of storage space you have—each Group requires 100MB of storage.
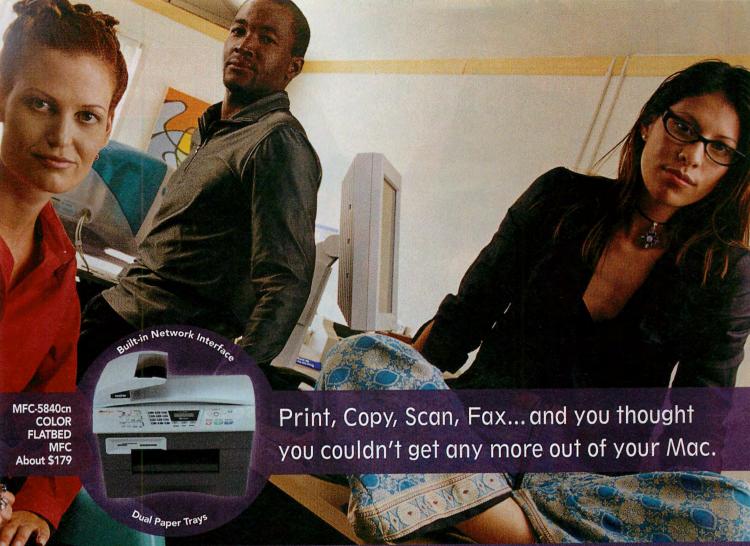
BACKUP 3 .Mac's backup tool gets a makeover. You can now use one of the preset Backup Plans, which include backups for your Home folder, iLife files, personal data and settings, and purchased iTunes music. Backup can now perform incremental backups, which save only new or recently modified files. The built-in Spotlight features let you find individual files you want to designate for backup.
—*Roman Loyola*

.Mac just got bigger and buffer.

GET IN SYNC!

Suffering from Multiple-Mac Syndrome, unsure which file is on what Mac? Constantly juggling contacts on your Mac, PDA, and mobile phone? Here's how to make sure all your gizmos have exactly what you need, exactly when you need it.

BY DEBORAH SHADOVITZ

The address you need is on your Mac at home, but you're stuck in the office. The details about tomorrow's big meeting are on your Mac at work, but you're on the road with your 'Book—and you're beginning to think you might be better off carrying a Day-Timer instead of multiple electronic gadgets that each have only a fragment of all your information.
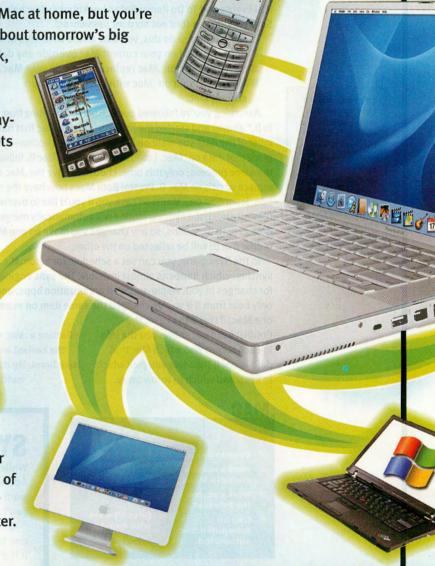
Don't give up. All you need is synchronization—and we're here to help. We'll show you several ways to make sure all your info is the same on all your Macs, as well as on your iPod, cell phone, and even your peecee (your secret's safe with us). Some of the techniques we outline work over the Internet; others require your Macs to be networked together; and several involve using another device to ferry data—but any of them will help you keep your info-seeking head above water.

ON THE DISC
ChronoSync, You Synchronize

OVER THE INTERNET

Syncing Macs across the 'Net is convenient because you don't have to worry about networking your Macs together or using an intermediary device (such as a hard drive) to transport your data—but you'll want high-speed access on both ends.

METHOD 1: .MAC

If you're just looking for a way to coordinate basic info among multiple Macs, consider springing for a .Mac account ($99.95 per year for 1GB of storage, $179.95 per year for a five-account Family Pack with 2GB of total storage). Your account gives you an easy, built-in way to synchronize your contacts, calendar items, and a limited amount of other data.

Once you've set up your .Mac account, it's time to prep it for the syncing process. Open System Preferences on Mac A and select .Mac from the Internet & Network pane. Enter your Member Name and Password, click the Sync tab, and check Sync With .Mac. Choose Manually, at least the first time. (After you're sure it works, you might want to go with a timed schedule.) Lastly, check the items you'd like to sync—you can sync your Address Book contacts; iCal Events and To Do items; Safari bookmarks; Keychain passwords; and Mail's account rules, signatures, and Smart Mailboxes (but not account passwords).

The first time you do this, you'll be asked what kind of syncing you want to do. The choices are:
- Have the data on your current Mac override any data already on .Mac.
- Have the data on .Mac replace what's on your Mac.
- Merge the data on .Mac with the data on your current Mac.

Assuming you've followed our advice (see "Getting from A to B," above) and started the process from the Mac that has most of the data you want on it, choose the first option—to place that data on .Mac. Later, when you're on Mac B, follow the same process; only this time, choose to have the .Mac data replace what's on Mac B. Presto! Both Macs now have the same info. From now on, .Mac won't ask you if you'd like to overwrite files—instead, the syncing routine will automatically merge the data in both directions, so any changes you make on one Mac (either A or B) will be reflected on the other.

In the Sync pane, you can set a schedule for automatic syncing, which happens almost invisibly. The sync engine watches for changes in your Apple-supplied organization apps, and you'll only hear from it if you've changed the same item on more than one Mac. If that's the case, the Conflict Resolver shows you the info in each record and which Mac that data is on; it then lets you pick which to keep and which to throw away.

Getting a .Mac account is the easiest way to start synchronizing data across multiple Macs.

.MAC

PROS	CONS
■ Easy to use.	■ Doesn't sync documents.
■ Works across multiple Macs.	■ Costs $99.95 or more per year.
■ Works across the Internet.	■ Doesn't work with non-Apple calendar or contact apps.
■ Can be scheduled and automated.	

SYNC YOUR EMAIL—NOT!

While the .Mac method of syncing Macs matches up your Mail and Address Book contacts, it doesn't sync your actual email. If you want to have the same email messages on multiple machines, you'll have to try one of these alternate methods.

One way is to simply set the email apps on all of your Macs but one to leave your messages on the server. Then only that one (call it the primary Mac) will be empowered to delete the messages

METHOD 2: FOLDERSHARE

If both of your to-be-synced computers—yes, *computers* as in Mac *or* Windows—have high-speed Internet access, FolderShare is the easiest way to synchronize your files. With this for-fee service, you can sync any folder (or folders) with any number of Macs or Windows-based computers. It also provides two excellent bonuses: First, you can share a folder with other people; and second, you can access your own files from any Web browser (which can be a real butt-saver sometimes) as long as your computer is running and online.

Start by downloading the free version of FolderShare from www.foldershare.com and installing it on all the computers among which you want to share files. Then, with FolderShare running, log in from Mac A by choosing

If you want to sync a folder that's standard on all your Macs, such as Music or Pictures, you can choose QuickSync and pick the folder from a menu rather than navigating to it the old-fashioned way.

My FolderShare from the new FolderShare menu at the right of your menu bar, and create an account (with nickname and password) by stepping through the login wizard that appears. Once that's done, open your FolderShare home page in your browser. Repeat the process on Mac B, only this time tell the wizard you already have an account.

To set up synchronization, click the Sync My Folders icon on your My FolderShare Web page, and choose (or create) a folder on your Mac to sync. The volume the folder is on will then show up under Configured Devices in the FolderShare browser window. Next, select one of your other to-be-synced computers from the Available Devices list on the left and choose (or create) the folder on the computer that you want to sync to. That's it, really. Your two folders

FolderShare lets you sync files (even with PCs!), share files, or grab your files from wherever you are.

will now automatically sync; as soon as you save a changed file to the synced folder on the computer you're working on, it'll overwrite the file in the proper folder on the other computer—or it will the next time you log in on that computer. If you want to sync more devices, choose another and repeat the process. The transfers are encrypted and sent directly from one computer to the other—your files never reside on FolderShare servers.

The free Basic plan lets you share two folders with a 500-file limit on each. If you upgrade to the Personal ($49.95 per year) or Professional ($99.95 per year) plan, you get to sync more and bigger folders. You also get to set up FolderShare to sync with another person. (You can share files with others on the Basic plan, but the other person merely has read-only access.) To share with others, instead of choosing Sync My Folders on your My FolderShare Web page, you choose Share With Others and specify a folder. Then enter your colleague's email address, set the permissions level, and add a personal message. FolderShare sends your colleague an email with an Access Files link. Once that person has installed FolderShare, logged into your account, and specified a folder to share, whenever either one of you makes a change to your synced folders, the change will be reflected on the other's computer.
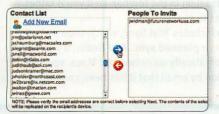
The last option on the My FolderShare Web page is Access My Files, which (if you have a Personal or Professional account) lets you use your browser to log into FolderShare and download files from any of your shared volumes, whether they're in a shared folder or not.

FolderShare reads your Address Book and gives you a list of potential sharers.

FOLDERSHARE

PROS	CONS
■ Works with Macs and PCs.	■ Syncing requires computers to be online and awake.
■ Works among multiple computers.	■ Advanced features require yearly fee.
■ Offers option to download files and share them with others.	

from the server—the others will download your messages but leave copies behind so other Macs can download them, too. To pull off this trick in Mail, go to Preferences > Accounts, click the Advanced tab, and make sure the Remove Copy From Server After Retrieving A Message option is unchecked; repeat this on all of your Macs except your primary one. On the primary Mac, check that option and, from the pop-up menu beneath it, choose After One Day or After One Month—however long you need to make sure your other computers can download your messages, as well.

A better way is to keep all your mail on the mail server all the time. For that, you'll need to set up an email account as IMAP (Internet Messaging Access Protocol) rather than POP (Post Office Protocol). A .Mac account is IMAP by default; if your mail account is elsewhere, check with your mail-service provider to see if you can use IMAP. Unfortunately, many (if not most) service providers still don't offer it.

These approaches work across platforms. If you want to use Entourage on one Mac, Mailsmith on another, and some flavor of Outlook on your PC, feel free.

ACROSS A NETWORK

The next group of syncers don't require an Internet connection—they sync between mounted volumes, which means you either have to network your Macs together or use some kind of intermediary device to carry files from one to the other (see "Sync Helpers," below).

METHOD 1: CHRONOSYNC

The basis of ChronoSync ($30, on the Disc or download from http://www.econtechnologies.com) is a *synchronizer document*—a file that contains the setup information needed to sync two folders. You create one synchronizer document on each Mac for each folder or volume you want to sync, specifying rules, sync direction, verification and logging options, and so on. You can collect multiple synchronizer documents into a container document and later call them all into action at once.

Start by going to Mac A and mounting Mac B (or an external drive) on its desktop. Launch ChronoSync, and the sync setup window appears. Drag the folder or volume to be synced on Mac A into the Left Target area, and drag the corresponding folder or volume on Mac B into the Right

ChronoSync provides the security of placing your deleted files in an archive—just in case.

Target area. (It doesn't really matter which one goes on the left or right; the sides are just visual cues.) Choose Bidirectional so the sync goes both ways, letting ChronoSync keep the newest files on both targets. Check Sync Deletions to have ChronoSync delete files on one Mac if it sees that they were removed from the other; you can opt to have them moved to an archive if you want, just to be safe.

If you'd like to exclude any files from synchronization that are inside the folder you've set to be synced, click the Analyze icon, Control-click the items you don't want to sync, and choose Exclude. You can set up Rules to include files based on such criteria as file extension and date modified; you can also use Rules to exclude files for the same reasons. Finally, save your new synchronizer document. If you're using an external device to carry your files between Macs, you'll need to repeat the setup process for that device and Mac B—just be sure to get in the habit of syncing before and after you work on each Mac. But if the two Macs are networked, at this point you're good to go—just click the Synchronize icon in the toolbar. Or if you'd rather, click the Schedule icon to tell ChronoSync when or how often to run the sync.

ChronoSync also includes Trial Sync, which shows what'll happen if you run your planned sync. And finally, if you've set the sync to run automatically on networked Macs, you can opt to receive notification by email that it has been completed.

TIP

If you use ChronoSync for backup—for example, to sync a folder to a CD—you can save space by choosing not to archive deletions.

CHRONOSYNC

PROS

- Provides two-way synchronization or one-way priority file transfer.
- Compares modification date, size, permissions, file type, ownership, and more to detect file changes.
- Syncs multiple folders at once.
- Can copy locked and invisible files.
- Keeps a log.

CONS

- Macs must be networked, or you have to use an intermediary device.

SYNC HELPERS

You can still use ChronoSync, FoldersSynchronizer X, and You Synchronize even if your Macs aren't on the same network by using an intermediary device—an iPod, Palm OS PDA, or external hard drive or flash drive—to transport files. Here's how.

iPOD Your iPod is a terrific little carrier for Address Book contacts and iCal Events and To Do items because you can copy them to the 'Pod automatically when you sync your music. Unfortunately, you can't copy them off to another Mac the same way—automatic syncing only works in the Mac-to-iPod direction. However, you can still use you iPod as a syncing intermediary, because your Address Book info saves as VCF files, and your iCal

METHOD 2: FOLDERSSYNCHRONIZER X

The buttons at the right of the FoldersSynchronizer X main interface provide access to options such as finding files to sync according to particular criteria.

Like ChronoSync, FoldersSynchronizer X ($20 for Lite Version, $40 for Full Version, www.softobe.com) syncs by creating a document—in this case, a *session* file. To set up FoldersSynchronizer X, mount Mac B or an external drive onto the desktop of Mac A and launch FoldersSynchronizer X. In the Default Session window that appears, drag one folder or volume to be synced onto the top folder icon, and then drag the counterpart on the other disk or Mac onto the lower folder icon. (It doesn't matter which volume or folder goes on the top or bottom.) By default, FoldersSynchronizer X uses two-way sync: New files copy in both directions, and the most recently modified version of a file on whichever side overwrites the other one. If you're paranoid about losing data, you can use the Conflicts pane to set up alternative ways to handle files, such as skipping any files that have been modified on both sides or copying the modified files in both directions.

To get rid of deleted files—so they don't keep getting copied back and forth—click the S button and check Exact Sync in the resulting dialog box. Save and name the session file, and click Synchronize. During your first sync, no files will be deleted, even with the Exact Sync option on; instead, both folders will add files until they're matched.

If you're syncing networked Macs, you're done. If you're using an intermediary device, you just need to repeat this process with your other Mac. Then, to keep things in sync, remember to run your session file before and after working at each location.

You can save multiple session files and run them all at the same time to sync several different folders on one Mac or disk to corresponding folders on the other. Just keep creating new session files as described above; to sync all the paired volumes or folders at once, choose All from the pop-up menu in the main window, and click the Synchronize button in the center. Alternatively, you could go up to the menu bar and choose Options > Multiple and make a list of folders to be synced in a table, putting one item on the left of each row and its corresponding item on the right.

FOLDERSSYNCHRONIZER X

PROS	CONS
■ Provides two-way syncing; also features one-way copy in Backup mode.	■ Macs must be networked, or you have to use an intermediary device.
■ Can find documents to sync according to file name, date, file type, creator, kind, owner, or group.	■ Sync is based on modification-time only (the most-recently changed file has priority).
■ Syncs multiple folders at once.	■ Deleted files are not archived.
■ Copies locked and invisible files.	
■ Can pause when encountering an error, awaiting direction.	
■ Keeps a log.	

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stuff saves as one ICS file per calendar. Just open the iPod in disk mode on the second Mac and manually copy the files over; double-click them, and Address Book and iCal will automatically add the data. Unfortunately, you can't do the same to get your files onto a PC: When you connect a Mac-used iPod to a PC running Windows, you're told you need to reformat it in order for it to be read.

PALM OS PDA It's easy to move your contacts and calendars from your Mac to the Palm device; here's how to get the info off your Palm and onto another computer: Sync the Palm only with the Mac where you tend to add the most new addresses and appointments. On the other computer, choose to have the Palm device always overwrite the computer's data. When using the second computer, always enter new data on the Palm itself, not the computer.

HARD DRIVE OR FLASH DRIVE Mac-to-Mac synchronization is simple—just sync one Mac with a folder on the drive, then sync that folder with the corresponding folder on the second Mac. But if you want to sync your Mac to a PC, you'll quickly find that your Mac-formatted drive won't mount on a PC, and your Mac can't write to a standard Windows XP NTSF-formatted hard drive. If you format the drive as FAT32, however—which Apple's Disk Utility can do—then both computers can read and write to it. But the FAT32 format doesn't carry Mac resource forks (necessary for files from Pro Tools, Final Cut Pro, and many other media-editing applications).

The best solution? Keep your Mac formatting on your external drive and get Mediafour's MacDrive 6 ($49.95, www.mediafour.com) for your PC. MacDrive supports all media, including flash drives.

METHOD 3: YOU SYNCHRONIZE

ChronoSync has synchronizer documents; FoldersSychronizer has sessions; You Synchronize ($49.95, on the Disc or download from www.yousoftware.com) has *projects*. Each pair of folders or volumes to be synchronized makes up one project, and by now, you can probably guess how the process of creating a project goes. When you launch You Synchronize, a Default Project window appears. Click the Settings button to get to the setup window, and drag the folder or volume to be synced from Mac A into the Local Folder area (you can also navigate to it or create a new one using the Select Folder button, also in the Local Folder area). Next, drag the folder you want to sync with on Mac B or an external drive into the Remote Folder area. (As with ChronoSync's Left and Right targets, Local and Remote is really just a way to differentiate the two devices—it doesn't matter which is which.) Keep the default Type set to Two Way Synchronization so that changed files always replace older ones in both locations. When a file is deleted from one side of the equation, it'll be removed from the other volume. To play it safe, check the Archive Files option so that you can retrieve the deleted file should you need to. (Got guts? Check Secure Delete Files or Place Removed Files In Trash.) You can also play it safe by clicking Inspect to preview the proposed sync and clearly see which files will be replaced, added, or deleted. To exclude items inside the folders being synced, click the Exclude Files button at

You Synchronize features four ways to determine which files have been changed and need syncing, which—the company claims—increases accuracy and reduces lost data.

SYNC YOUR PHONE

The always-with-you-ness of a cell phone isn't helpful if you don't have your phone numbers with you as well. Every phone has a built-in address book—so wouldn't it be great to be able to sync your Mac's Address Book contacts with your cell phone? Well, you can, maybe—all it depends on which phone you have and which carrier you use.

The first thing you have to do is connect your phone to your Mac. You have two choices: Bluetooth or USB cable. Phones don't usually come with USB cables, but you may be able to purchase one from your cellular provider or phone manufacturer. Otherwise (or also) ask them which cable they recommend—many are available from Susteen at www.datapilot.com/shop_cables.htm.

Once you're connected, there are a couple of ways to actually transfer the data. The easiest way is to use Apple's iSync, which should already be on your Mac as part of OS X (if not, download it from www.apple.com/support/downloads/isync.html). It supports a lot of phones (listed at www.apple.com/macosx/features/isync/devices.html), but iSync only syncs Address Book contacts and iCal entries, not pictures and ringtones. Furthermore, even if your phone is listed as supported, it may not actually work—carriers sometimes ask phone manufacturers to limit a phone's features. For example, on the first Bluetooth phone Verizon offered, the Motorola v710, Verizon didn't allow Bluetooth sync—they only authorized the use of a wireless headset.

If your phone doesn't work with iSync, you'll need to find software that does. The most-talked-about app on cell-phone

You can use iSync to put your Address Book contacts on your phone—if you've got the right kind of phone, can connect it to your Mac, and your provider hasn't disabled syncing.

YOU SYNCHRONIZE

PROS	CONS
■ Provides two-way synchronization; also features one-way copy in Backup mode.	■ Computers must be networked, or you have to use an intermediary device.
■ Keeps a log.	■ Does not auto-mount volumes.
■ Performs multiple checks (including file size, CRC32 checksum, creation and modification dates, and daylight-savings-time offsets) to determine file status.	■ Checksum can take a long time.
■ Supports sync to and from a Windows file server.	
■ Copies invisible files.	

TIP

You can click on the Schedule *icon* in You Synchronize's toolbar to automate the sync process. However, unlike with ChronoSync and Folders-Synchronizer X, you must mount the external volume yourself—there's no automount feature.

the bottom of the Settings window, click New, specify the Type of item, click Select, and navigate to the unwanted folder or file. Satisfied? Just click Sync.

You Synchronize gives you four choices of how to determine if a file has been modified since the last sync: checksum comparison, file signature, checksum plus modification date, or modification date only. The company claims that the checksum comparison plus the database the software maintains about your projects makes You Synchronize's syncing more reliable than simple modification-date checking. You trade time for accuracy, though—the checksum comparison can take a while.

Projects automatically store as you create them, and you can choose which one to run by selecting it from the Projects Drawer at the side of the main window or from the pop-up list under the Projects icon in the toolbar. You can only run one project at a time, though you can schedule several to run sequentially.

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email lists is a piece of open-source freeware called BitPim (free, bitpim.sourceforge.net). As with much open-source software, however, support is minimal to nonexistent. Another choice is OnSync ($12, www.onmadesoft.com). But the most-developed commercial product—and the best choice for most people—is Susteen's DataPilot for Mac OS X, ($34.95, www.datapilot .com). DataPilot's Universal Kit for Mac ($100) comes with DataPilot phone transfer software and a whole slew of cables. The software transfers Address Book contacts, iCal calendars, ringtones, 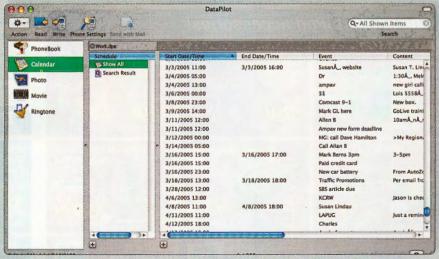and photos. It's carrier-agnostic and supports most late-model phones from Motorola, LG, Samsung, Nokia, Sanyo and Sony.

CDMA phone carriers—Verizon and Sprint, specifically—support an over-the-air technology (generically called *BREW*, for "binary runtime environment for wireless") to transfer information to their phones. Verizon calls its technology Get It Now (GIN). Sprint calls it Sprint PCS Vision, and for installing games or ringtones, it's a great solution. Unfortunately for us Mac folks, BREW contact and calendar providers don't yet support the Mac. And because Verizon would prefer you to use GIN, it does not fully support Bluetooth on its phones—and it doesn't officially support a Mac-friendly cable-syncing solution. (We did get our Verizon phone to work with the DataPilot kit, though.)

No matter how you get your data from you Mac to your phone, you may still face hurdles, as the format of imported data is partly phone dependent. For example, LG phones put all the info for one person in a single record. But when you sync to a Motorola phone, DataPilot warns you that only one number can be stored for each entry; if you have multiple phone numbers for someone, you'll need to create extra address book entries for them.

FACT: Over 7,000 people subscribe to the maccellphone Yahoo Group.

Phones that don't work with iSync might work with DataPilot, which lets you sync more stuff than iSync does.

Deborah Shadovitz's favorite thing about setting up a synchronization system for her clients is that it forces them to keep their files in organized folders.

PRICE WAR!

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FREE!
With your iPod purchase!
FM Transmitter!†
Engraving!†
See below for details.

Now Playing
9 of 12
The Journey
Fatboy Slim
Palookaville
3:37   -0:

Now Playing
9 of 13
Just Feel Bette
Santana
All That I Am
3:30

iTunes
iTunes
Now Available!

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was $259⁹⁹
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'Pod People

| SEAN | ROMAN | NIKO | JAKE | RIK |

Your iPod may be "the ultimate accessory," but there's no shortage of ways you can enhance it—accessories for your favorite accessory, if you will. With the right selection of add-on products, you can make your iPod as personal as your playlists. To help you find your perfect 'Pod partners, we *MacAddict* editors have each selected our favorite iPod accoutrements that best adapt our digital music players to our individual lifestyles. From armbands for the daily jog to speakers for the music snob, here are the 'Pod paraphernalia that rock our various worlds.

By the editors of *MacAddict*

Mr. Pretends-To-Be Healthy

SEAN MOLLOY, MANAGING EDITOR

iPOD OF CHOICE iPod shuffle (on cardio days) or 20GB iPod photo (on non-cardio days).

WHAT'S ON IT? Motivational tracks by Gorillaz, The New Pornographers, Interpol, R.E.M., Liz Phair, Franz Ferdinand, and Radiohead.

WHERE I LISTEN At the gym or joggin' through the park—*to the extreme*!

iFM
▶Griffin ▶$49.99
▶www.griffintechnology.com
Music is usually a workout's best friend, but some mornings I like to blast my glutes to an inane-morning-zoo-talk-radio groove. That's where Griffin's little FM tuner comes in. It's compact, doubles as a remote so I can listen to music during commercials, and picks up stations in my area well.

ACTION JACKET FOR iPOD SHUFFLE
▶DLO ▶$24.99 ▶www.dlodirect.com
The iPod shuffle's size and penchant to never skip make it ideal for jogging or snowboarding out of a burning helicopter. This minimalist black number keeps it secure and safe from the whims of weather.

AIRCLICK
▶Griffin ▶$39.99
▶www.griffintechnology.com
This little remote comes in handy while biking; just attach it to your handlebars with its Velcro strap.

E4C SOUND-ISOLATING HEADPHONES
▶Shure ▶$299.99
▶www.shure.com
Shure's comfortable, flexible, in-ear wonders sound great, block out noise, and stay in your ears no matter what—but the sensation of removing them is akin to pulling an octopus out of your ears.

Sean's
FAVE

AMP PACK
▶Burton ▶$199.95 ▶www.burton.com
When hiking up a vertical cliff during an avalanche, Burton's Amp Pack serves my need for back-based portable storage and on-the-go iPod interfacing—the damn thing's got iPod controls built right into the friggin' shoulder strap. Oh, and yes, it does come in patterns that aren't so heinously glaring—but will that keep you from getting shot by yeti hunters?

PUMPPOD
▶PumpPod ▶$19 to $49
▶www.pumppod.com
If you find yourself wandering among your gym's glistening white machines and strange inflatable spheres, PumpPod offers a series of "iPod workouts" (series of still photos, really) you can view on any photo-ready 'Pod.

Ball Crunch
Abs
1
2

iTOP
▶ Nyko ▶$29.99 ▶www.nyko.com
Nyko's button relocator keeps me from pulling my 20GB iPod from my pocket every time I want to skip a song that just isn't *extreme* enough. Certain Coldplay ditties can kill an endorphine rush fast.

MUSICASE
▶iRock ▶$24.99
▶www.myirock.com
When your extreme hiking pals need a rest, break out the Mountain Dew and this iPod case with built-in speakers.

Soon-To-Be Soccer Dad

ROMAN LOYOLA, REVIEWS EDITOR

iGUY
▶ Speck Products ▶ $34.95 ▶ www.speckproducts.com
It's not just a case; it's also a toy to occupy my boys when over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house we go.

I-DOG
▶ Hasbro ▶ $29.95 ▶ www.hasbrotoyshop.com
He has a built-in speaker, but most of all, my kids love his flashing lights and head movements synced with the music.

OTTERBOX FOR iPOD
▶ Otter Products ▶ $49.99 ▶ www.otterbox.com
Toddlers want to get their hands on everything, and my iPod is no exception. The OtterBox is a waterproof case that's also tough enough to survive caveman-like pounding.

Roman's FAVE

SONIC BOOM BAG
▶ Sonic Impact ▶ $39 ▶ www.si-technologies.com
For me, it's a diaper bag with built-in battery-powered speakers and controls in the straps. C'mon kids, it's "Hokey-Pokey" time!

ICE CREME
▶ RadTech ▶ $35.95 ▶ www.radtech.us
I'd like to blame my boys for scratching up my iPod, but I abuse it more than they do. Ice Creme M helps remove the scratches, making my iPod look almost new. (Not shown.)

TUNEDOK CAR HOLDER FOR iPOD
▶ Belkin ▶ $29.95 ▶ www.belkin.com
My kids have car seats. Might as well have one for my iPod, too.

iCARPLAY WIRELESS PLUS
▶ Monster ▶ $79.95
▶ www.monstercable.com
My 1993 Ford Explorer was built back when the 12-volt socket was known as the cigarette lighter, so it's located in the ash tray—and the iCarPlay is one of the few car adapters that actually fits. Thankfully, its reception is quite good.
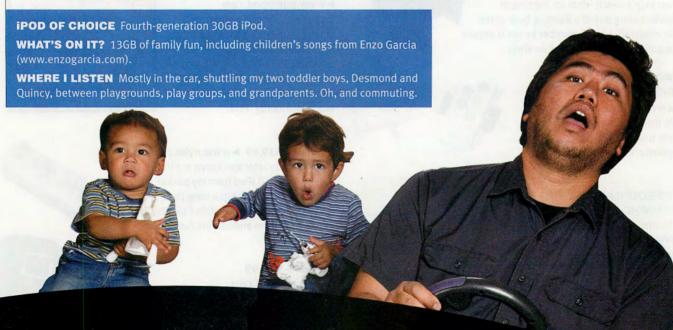
iPOD OF CHOICE Fourth-generation 30GB iPod.

WHAT'S ON IT? 13GB of family fun, including children's songs from Enzo Garcia (www.enzogarcia.com).

WHERE I LISTEN Mostly in the car, shuttling my two toddler boys, Desmond and Quincy, between playgrounds, play groups, and grandparents. Oh, and commuting.

NIKO COUCOUVANIS, HOW-TO EDITOR

Funboy/Fanboy

iPAL

▶Tivoli Audio ▶$149.99 ▶www.tivoliaudio.com

iPal isn't the loudest speaker you can plug an iPod into, but it's the smartest. Thanks to its rechargeable, replaceable NiMH battery, the iPal plays longer than some of my iPods—and that's when the built-in AM/FM radio comes in handy. Add in the 'Poddish styling, solid construction, and awesome sound, and I'd call you a sucker for using anything else.

iPOD SOCK

▶Apple ▶$29 ▶www.apple.com

Go ahead and laugh, tough guy, but I've got a brand-spankin'-new nano to protect, and I swear the screen scratches if I look at it funny. Besides, I stole the Sock from my girlfriend. Heck, since I have a half-dozen different iPods at this point, I might even pop for my own six-pack o' socks.

SOLIO

▶Solio ▶$99.99 ▶www.solio.com

I'm not dorky enough to don one of those solar e-vest dealies, but I'd hot-glue this bad boy to my favorite beanie—instant propellerhead! You say it'll also charge my Dock-connectable iPods with power from the sun? That's just gravy.

iPODONUT

▶Frontfield ▶www.ipodonut.com
▶$9.95 ($9 for third-generation-iPod version)

Hell no, I don't *need* a glowing green clickwheel; but it's green and it glows! And believe it or not, without this protection, I can make a real mess of my clickwheels. (Not shown.)

iBEAMS

Niko's FAVE

▶Griffin Technology ▶$19.99
▶www.griffintechnology.com

No matter how practical I am, I'm not above dropping $20 on pointless fun like this two-piece lighting kit. The LED makes a handy flashlight for finding keys or ports on the back of the G5; the laser pointer keeps me amused at night, messing with airline pilots—er, I mean neighborhood cats.

REMOTETUNES

▶Targus ▶$49.99 ▶www.targus.com

Another way to keep ye olde clickwheel clean: Dirty up a remote controller instead. There are, oh, about 900 of them on the market, but this one from Targus sends its remote mojo over radio-frequency signals, thus giving it killer range.

TUNETALK FOR iPOD

▶Belkin ▶$29.99 ▶www.belkin.com

I can plug this slick nubbin into my 'Pod and record notes to myself, interviews, and blackmail fodder. (Not shown.)

PERSONAL AUTO SOLUTION

▶Me ▶About $5 ▶Never you mind

After trying a bunch of iPod-to-auto junk, I got a five-dollar cable from Radio Shack and plugged one end into the back of my in-dash stereo and the other into my iPod's headphone jack. Looks skanky; sounds great. (Not shown.)

iPOD OF CHOICE Right now it's the 4GB black nano, but I've also got an original 5GB, third-generation 40GB, 20GB photo, 512MB shuffle, and two minis.

WHAT'S ON IT? Linux, a backup of my Mac's Home folder, Party-Pod Pro for drink recipes and drinking games. Oh, and some music—mostly punk-rock covers of bad eighties songs.

WHERE I LISTEN At home, in the garden, in the car, at work, at parties, at the bar—everywhere!

Family Guy

JAKE WIDMAN, FEATURES EDITOR

MICROFIBER SLEEVE
▶Kensington ▶$19.99
▶www.kensington.com

I once had an iPod slip out of my hands—not recommended unless you want to meet the fine folks at iPodResQ (www.ipodresq.com)—so I mainly want a cover that gives a good grip. The Microfiber Sleeve feels like suede, I can use the clickwheel right through the fabric—and I haven't dropped my 'Pod since I got it.

POCKETDOCK LINE OUT USB
▶SendStation Systems ▶$29.95
▶www.sendstation.com

I've been known to forget things, so I'm sure that someday I won't have the right cable or power adapter when it's time to recharge my 'Pod. But with the PocketDock, I just need a standard USB cable. Bonus: The line-level miniphone-plug port supplies better audio than the headphone jack.

MYTUNE FM
▶Tekkeon ▶$69.95 ▶www.tekkeon.com

I've tested tons of FM car adapters, and this one works best. It's even got a cradle to hold your 'Pod at eye level—safer than looking in the next seat.

PORTABLE SPEAKERS FOR iPOD
▶Logitech ▶$149.99 ▶www.logitech.com

These guys aren't going to power your next dance party (when was my *last* dance party?), but they're perfect for listening in the kitchen while making dinner. The built-in LiIon battery lets my kid take the speakers to his room when a friend is over. To top it off, my wife thinks they're cute—not what she usually says about technogadgets.

Jake's FAVE

GRAB FOR iPOD
▶Rivet International ▶$29.99
▶www.rivetnow.com

I don't carry my iPod around much, but when I do, I don't want to just shove it in a pocket, and I don't like the way belt-clipped holsters dig into your side. A nice, secure holder that hangs from a clip—that sounds like just the ticket. And it is.

TUNESTAGE FOR iPOD
▶Belkin ▶$179.99 ▶www.belkin.com

The Bluetooth receiver hooks up to your stereo; the little transmitter goes on your iPod; you sit on the couch and listen to your music. Honey, could you get me a beer?

iPOD OF CHOICE Fourth-generation 40GB iPod.
WHAT'S ON IT? 11.70GB of tunes, including lots of live-music downloads, such as the 50-plus bootlegs from Uncle Tupelo and related bands.
WHERE I LISTEN In the car and around the house—kitchen, living room, wherever.

Audiophile Mouse-Potato

RIK MYSLEWSKI, EDITOR IN CHIEF

HD595

▶Sennheiser ▶$289.95 ▶www.sennheiserusa.com
When the hour is late and the "Kyrie" from Bach's *Messe in H-Moll* might disturb my slumbering spouse, I don these 12Hz-to-38.5KHz circumaural headphones. Earbuds are so déclassé—and uncomfortable.

FX6021

▶Altec Lansing ▶$249.95 ▶www.alteclansing.com
When sitting at my desk at home, I pleasure my eardrums with this top-quality powered-speaker system. Six 180Hz-to-15KHz Altec Micro Drivers in each satellite speaker (12.5 watts per channel) are supported by a 6.5-inch, 40Hz-to-180Hz subwoofer. (Not shown.)

NAVIPOD EX

▶TEN Technology ▶$49.95 ▶www.tentechnology.com
Most iPod remotes allow you merely to adjust volume and skip from song to song; the naviPod EX also allows me to navigate playlists, albums, and audiobook chapters.

iPOD ARMOR

▶Matias ▶$39.95 ▶http://matias.ca
I'm fussy about my iPod's appearance, so when I'm traveling, I give it the best protection I can without sacrificing aesthetics—namely, the smooth-and-subtle yet virile-and-rugged aluminum embrace of this well-padded case. Toss it into your luggage and banish your fear of brutish baggage handlers.

iCRUZE

▶Monster Cable ▶$199 for Interface Module, $99.95 for optional LCD Display ▶www.monstercable.com
For the best possible audio quality, I've connected my iPod directly to my car stereo's CD-changer jack by way of the iCruze, which allows me to peruse my playlists using my in-dash CD controls and the optional blue-LED display. (A list of supported car-audio systems can be found on Monster Cable's Web site. Other Monster-supplied components may be needed depending on your car.)

Rik's FAVE

iFI

▶Klipsch ▶$400 ▶www.klipsch.com
While the FX6021 speakers are perfect for at-desk listening, the 27Hz-to-20KHz iFi system does a superior job at filling an entire room. Its iPod dock—complete with main and subwoofer volume controls and a mute button—accepts signals from the included radio-frequency remote with a range sufficient enough to allow me to adjust Anthony Braxton's volume while searching for the perfect Pinot Blanc in my wine cellar.

iPOD OF CHOICE
60GB iPod photo.

WHAT'S ON IT? The complete Mozart String Quintets; *Polish Hip-Hop*, including Paktofonika's "Jestem Bogiem;" 2,500 photos from my recent trip to Istanbul.

HOW I USE IT In my home library and music room; as my photo vault when shooting in the field; listening to a podcast of Harry Shearer's *Le Show* while driving in my chili-red Mini Cooper.

Sean, Roman, Niko, Jake, and Rik thank all the members of the iPod economy who provided products for this story—and now we'd like to see those manufacturers try to pry them back out of our grasping little claws.

Field Guide to WI-FI TERMINOLOGY

Fear not, traveler! There's no need to hide from Wi-Fi's big, scary acronyms.

AB/GETTY IMAGES

Wireless Buzzcronyms

By Niko Coucouvanis

Although wireless networking—Wi-Fi for short—is only a subset of the networked universe, it's a bubbling stew of acronyms, arcane protocols, and ever-evolving standards. Here's your cheat sheet to the wacky world of Wi-Fi terminology.

Hardware

Mac users with Wi-Fi dreams need look no further than Apple's AirPort Extreme Base Station, which can function as any or all of these devices.

BRIDGE	A piece of equipment that links two or more local-area networks (LANs) or devices together through simple data forwarding. You could, for example, use a wireless bridge to connect one local Ethernet network to another.
ROUTER	Like a bridge, a router connects disparate networks. Unlike a bridge, a router also provides the NAT (Network Address Translation) and DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) services required to connect your home local network to the Internet.
WAP	Wireless Access Point: A blanket term for Wi-Fi devices that transmit and receive data. (Also stands for Wireless Application Protocol, the global standard for mobile wireless access by devices such as cell phones and pagers.)
WIRELESS ADAPTER	The device that lets your Mac transmit data wirelessly. For most recent and current Macs, this means an Airport or Airport Extreme card. Older Macs and garden-variety PCs can use USB, PCI, or Ethernet-connected adapters.

Technologies, Protocols, and Standards

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE, pronounced "I-triple-E") sets the standards for wireless-access protocols; here are some of the main ones.

802.11	The ever-evolving specification for wireless networking (covering frequency, protocols, and so on), based on the 802.3 standard (aka Ethernet).
802.11b	Consumer Wi-Fi started out using the 802.11b standard, which operates in the range of 2.4GHz to 2.4835GHz with a maximum speed of 11 Mbps (megabits per second) and a relatively high range of 300 feet. Apple's original AirPort hardware is based on 802.11b.

Technologies, Protocols, and Standards (continued)

802.11a — A higher-speed (up to 54 Mbps), lower-range (60 feet maximum) version of 802.11 used in some specialized settings. Because it operates at 5GHz, it's not interoperable with standard 802.11b Wi-Fi, though newer flavors of 802.11 incorporate bits of both.

802.11g — Uses 11a's advanced multiplexing and modulation within 11b's 2.4GHz to 2.468GHz frequency range to achieve greater speed and distance. Unlike 11a, 11g is backward-compatible with 11b.

802.11n — Though not yet approved, the 802.11n spec promises speeds above 500 Mbps and backward compatibility with 11b, 11g, and possibly 11a. It's available to consumers in Belkin's so-called Pre-N hardware.

BLUETOOTH — Short range and a slow 2-Mbps maximum throughput makes Bluetooth a poor choice for transferring big files, but its ease of use, low cost, and low power requirements make it ideal for syncing cell phones and PDAs with your Mac, as well as for wireless mice and other input devices.

IR — Infrared Radiation (or just InfraRed, depending on whom you ask) is only capable of short-range, line-of-sight transmissions, and is used for simple devices such as your TV remote and Apple's remote for the new iMac G5.

IrDA — Infrared Data Association: This modified form of IR, named after its governing body, is slower than IR but has a higher theoretical range.

RF — Radio Frequency: An electromagnetic field—a radio wave—that is created when electric current is piped through an antenna. Unlike IR, RF can travel through walls.

RFID — Radio Frequency Identification: RFID systems use a central transceiver and multiple transponders to, for example, track product inventory, or grant an RFID-device-carrying person keyless access to secure areas.

Encryption

A Wi-Fi signal happily meanders outside the safe confines of your home or office walls. Encryption is the answer to that security problem; scrambling the data while it's transmitting keeps prying eyes from intercepting your private info.

LEAP — Lightweight Extensible Authentication Protocol: Cisco Systems' proprietary security protocol, which is used in some Cisco-based installations. If you use LEAP, use a tricky password; LEAP's authentication scheme is vulnerable to so-called *dictionary attacks*—repeated login attempts using everyday words.

WEP — Wired Equivalent Privacy: Part of the 802.11b standard, WEP uses passwords and data encryption to provide a level of security equivalent to that of a wired Ethernet network.

WPA — Wi-Fi Protected Access: WPA uses more-sophisticated data encryption and more-robust password authentication than its predecessor, WEP.

WPA 2 — Although the IEEE claims that WPA is still good enough, the more-muscular WPA 2 scrambles data via AES (Advanced Encryption Standard); standard WPA uses TKIP (Temporal Key Integrity Protocol). As if you didn't know.

WPA ENTERPRISE — Apple's implementation of individual-strength WPA, which authenticates users via RADIUS (Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service).

WPA PERSONAL — Apple's implementation of shared-key WPA, whereby all network clients use a common password or phrase—good for home and small-group networks.

802.1x — Next-generation Wi-Fi security that uses EAP (Extensible Authentication Protocol) for more-secure authentication with a central password server (based on RADIUS or another password-checking technology).

MacAddict How-To Editor Niko Coucouvanis has a photo of Hedy Lamarr on his desk. Seriously.

MacAddict RATINGS

MacAddict RATED	MacAddict RATED	MacAddict RATED	MacAddict RATED	MacAddict RATED
○○○○○	○○○○○	○○○○○	○○○○○	○○○○○
AWESOME	**GREAT**	**SOLID**	**SO-SO**	**LOUSY**
You'll be blown away.	You'll be impressed.	You'll be satisfied.	You'll be disappointed.	You'll be pissed off.

REVIEWS ►39

better living through smarter shopping

Just like a primo vino can make a wine connoisseur as pleased as punch, fine products such as LaCie's 319 LCD Monitor, Epson's Stylus Photo R2400, or Samson's C01U USB microphone (pictured) can make a Mac user's creative juices flow. If you're not feeling particularly inspired, maybe you just need an I-Dog to keep you company. Next month, we'll take a look at Macromedia's Flash 8, Intuit's Quicken for Mac 2006, and Wacom's Graphire4.

PLUS:
TheHotList

X Compatible with Mac OS X or later.

9 Compatible with Mac OS 9 or earlier.

EDITORS' MacAddict CHOICE

We'd spend our own hard-earned money on this product.

ROKR

DISAPPOINTING iTUNES-EQUIPPED MOBILE PHONE

The ROKR meets the basic goal that Motorola set for it—it's currently the only phone on the planet that runs a genuine iTunes music player and plays copy-protected tracks bought from the iTunes Music Store. But the devil's in the details, and those details include a ho-hum feature set and a few glaring flaws. After putting the phone through its paces, we think that a better name might be LOSR.

The bright side. Credit the ROKR with getting some key elements of the iPod experience right. Setting up your music is easy: Just plug the phone into your Mac with the supplied USB cable, then use your Mac's iTunes software to drag tracks or playlists to the phone manually, or use iTunes' AutoFill feature to top it off. (Sorry, you can't buy songs directly from the iTunes Music Store through the phone.) To play music, you press the ROKR's dedicated iTunes button, and the ROKR greets you with the iPod's familiar menu system. The only difference is that you use the ROKR's clickable thumbstick to navigate instead of the iPod's legendary clickwheel. The thumbstick approach isn't as versatile—there's no way to quickly scroll through a number of selections, for example—but it's satisfactory, and we had no problems navigating through songs, playlists, albums, and artists. The ROKR's audio quality matched our iPod shuffle when playing through the bundled stereo

Are you ready to rock? This phone isn't.

You can use some of the ROKR's memory to store Mac files instead of songs.

headphones (which include a built-in mic for voice chats); the phone's tiny built-in stereo speakers didn't sound half bad, either.

But then... We ran into annoying limitations. For starters, the ROKR can only hold 100 songs, despite the fact that its 512MB memory can hold more. Apparently, this is Apple's way of protecting iPod sales, but it limits the variety of music you can enjoy on the phone. It also means you'll want to regularly refresh the ROKR with new songs, which leads to another catch: The ROKR's USB 1.1 connection takes

more than an hour to fill up the phone with tunes! Trust us, waiting an hour gets old quickly—especially when an iPod shuffle transfers songs about 10 times as fast. Another disappointment: You can't use your iTunes songs as ringtones. A final disappointment came when we discovered that the ROKR isn't able to play audiobooks directly from Audible.com. You have to buy your audiobooks from the iTunes Music Store in order to play them on the ROKR.

We weren't taken by the ROKR's phone features, either. We like that the ROKR automatically pauses music for incoming and outgoing calls, but the phone isn't particularly small, thin, or stylish by today's standards. Its included camera is the old VGA variety (640 by 480, no flash), while many higher-end phones snap at 1.3 or 2 megapixels. What's more, Motorola's non-iTunes user interface is a bit confusing, often requiring an inordinate amount of button presses. And while the ROKR can sync your Address Book and iCal data over a Bluetooth connection, some useful info gets lost in the translation. For example, your contacts' postal addresses don't carry over; neither do all-day events from iCal. Finally, you can't type an SMS message to an Address Book contact on your Mac and send it via your Bluetooth-connected ROKR, as you can with some other phones.

The bottom line. We wanted to like the ROKR—we really did. But for something that costs $249 and requires a two-year contract with Cingular Wireless, we expect something at least within shouting distance of excellence. Instead, the ROKR merely combines a generic phone with a basic music player. A little of that old iPod elegance and out-of-the-box thinking would have gone a long way.—*Helmut Kobler*

HK's Phone

☑ Open iTunes when this mobile phone is attached
☐ Only update checked songs
☐ Convert higher bit rate songs to 128 kbps AAC
☑ Display album artwork on this mobile phone

☑ Enable disk use

Choose how much space will be reserved for songs versus data.

100 Songs ━━━━━●━━━━━━━━━ 80 MB Data
More Songs   More Data

MacAddict RATED
◉◉○○○
SO-SO

319 LCD Monitor

ACCURATE LCD MONITOR

LaCie's 319 LCD Monitor is the 2-inch-smaller sibling of the 321 LCD Monitor (●●●●○ Jun/05, p43). Like the 321, it's excellent for anyone who has a critical need for accurate color.

The 319 mirrors the 321 in almost every way: It has a sturdy dark-grey plastic bezel, adjustable height, the ability to pivot between landscape and portrait modes (but only if you have an ATI Radeon x800 video card—and you have to change the onscreen orientation manually through the ATI utility), a removable hood to help cut down glare, and settings-adjustment buttons at the bottom of the screen. The 319's connectors include one VGA, one DVI-D, and one DVI-I port; it has a maximum resolution of 1,280 by 1,024 pixels, and LaCie claims a contrast ratio of 600 to 1. LaCie also claims a 178-degree viewing angle, and our tests confirmed that the company's not just blowing smoke.

Blue looks like blue on the 319.

The 319 is spot-on when it comes to accuracy, and we didn't spot any problems with either overall brightness or uneven illumination. Text is sharp and clean, but when playing Unreal Tournament 2004, we did notice some slight *image* streaking—not surprising, considering the 319's 18-millisecond response time. (Apple's 20-inch Cinema Display, by comparison, has a 16-millisecond response time.)

Anyone who demands absolute color accuracy in printed output will benefit from LaCie's $349 blue eye color calibrator, which allows you to make sure the colors displayed on the 319 match what you get from your output devices. The 319 comes with LaCie's blue eye pro software (sans hardware calibrator), but for the most-accurate results, you'll need the blue eye hardware.

The bottom line. We said it for the 321, and we'll say it again for the 319: For color-critical work, you can depend on a LaCie LCD Monitor.—*Roman Loyola*
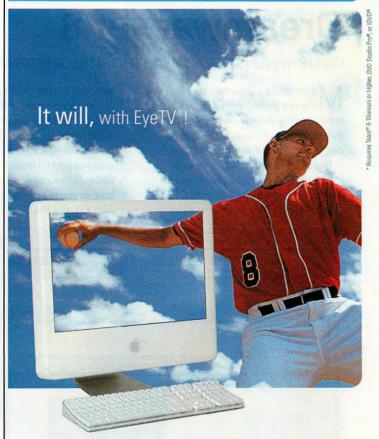
COMPANY: LaCie
CONTACT: 503-844-4500, www.lacie.com
PRICE: $999
REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS X or later, ATI Radeon x800 video card (for pivot)

GOOD NEWS: Excellent image quality. Useful pivot option. Adjustable height.
BAD NEWS: Pivoted screen doesn't reorient automatically. Slow response time.

MacAddict RATED
●●●●○
GREAT

Dreamweaver 8

COMPREHENSIVE WEB-AUTHORING SOFTWARE

Macromedia's Dreamweaver defined the integrated-Web-authoring-tool market as we know it. Dreamweaver 8 has something for everyone—but few can leverage *all* of its strengths.

Deep and complex. A plethora of workflow changes make Dreamweaver 8 a strong upgrade. Design-time CSS support allows code fragments to be

local text files to determine changes (a nice complement to Dreamweaver's updated WebDAV support for SSL-enabled collaborative site development). Dreamweaver 8 adds decent drag-and-drop support for inserting styled XML nodes in dynamic Web pages—as long as you're somewhat familiar with XSL and XSLT. The included

workspace improvements round out the more-subtle changes to the app.
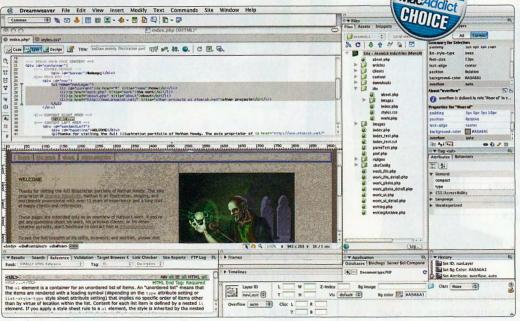
Interface issues. While Dreamweaver is a clever app in many ways, it falls just short of being truly intelligent. For example, it sometimes groups browser-validation errors logically, but it could offer better help correcting those errors. Code collapsing is great, but you must reselect expanded code to collapse it again. And Macromedia's insistence on removing button labels in Dreamweaver's interface slows workflow and makes it more difficult for novice users to quickly get up to speed.

Dreamweaver's complexity is both its greatest asset and its greatest drawback, as its deep feature set makes it a challenging app to learn. You could argue that Dreamweaver looks more like a professional programmer's tool, with its army of viewing modes, tabbed palettes, and property grids. A dual-monitor setup is so helpful that it feels like a necessity. Code-shy designers will love working in Design View, almost never touching any code—but those designers will be using only a small sliver of the app's power.

The bottom line. Existing Dreamweaver users will find plenty to like in this upgrade. If you're an intermediate Web developer—and especially if you're building dynamic or data-driven sites for less-experienced developers to maintain—you stand to gain the most out of Dreamweaver 8. It's a robust update to an already industry-leading tool.—*Nathan Moody*

Dreamweaver 8's integrated development environment is powerful, unified, streamlined—and perhaps too complex for the casual Web developer.

viewed with correct styling, removing some major WYSIWYG editing limitations on nested code fragments. Code collapsing (similar to expanding and collapsing folder views in the Finder) is quite handy when working through long files, especially complex externalized JavaScript files. Dreamweaver even allows for drag-and-drop placement of Flash 7 Video (FLV) files—it's brilliant in its simplicity and reliability. Developers working without a version-control system will appreciate the new ability to compare remote and

reference material for XML-related technologies is solid and eases the learning curve somewhat.

Dreamweaver 8 also features changes that bring it up-to-date with a number of evolving technologies and techniques. Dreamweaver's handling of (and ability to supply coding hints for) both ColdFusion MX 7 and PHP5 have been updated. Those concerned with making their Web site accessible to the visually challenged will find improved validation for the W3C's (World Wide Web Consortium's) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines at Priority levels 1 and 2. Many small

Stylus Photo R2400

EDITORS' MacAddict CHOICE

NEARLY PICTURE-PERFECT PRINTER

As the image quality of the digital camera has improved, so has the quality of the digital photographer's most-critical output device: the inkjet photo printer. The outstanding print quality of Epson's Stylus Photo R2400 is certain to open the eyes of every serious digital photographer.

The R2400 uses eight inks: cyan, light cyan, magenta, light magenta, yellow, light black, light light black (no, that's not a typo), and photo black, which can be swapped out for matte black if you decide to go with matte prints. The inks are part of Epson's new UltraChrome K3 ink set, and if you buy ink directly from Epson, you'll pay $14.24 per cartridge (before postage and handling).

The abundance of black ink is a big reason for a black-and-white photographer to purchase the R2400—the three blacks help get top-quality black-and-white results. Also, earlier this year, Eastman Kodak announced it will soon cease production of black-and-white photographic papers—a clarion call for black-and-white photogs to line up at the digital window.

The R2400 can print sizes ranging from 4-by-6-inch snapshots all the way up to 13-by-9-inch Super B prints. Epson also supplies a few widths of media on a continuous roll, allowing you to create panoramic banners. All Epson papers can be purchased directly from Epson's Web site.

The R2400 connects to your Mac via either USB or FireWire 400. We installed

Pricey? Sure. Worth every penny? Yup.

and connected the R2400 in under 30 minutes, but bear in mind you'll have to spend additional time calibrating the printer with Epson's software to ensure color accuracy. Luckily, Epson provides a truly robust printer driver with plenty of tweakability.

Black-and-white photographers will find more to love in the printer driver's Advanced Black & White Photo mode. Our tests showed that letting the driver perform grayscale conversions (as opposed to doing them with our favorite image-manipulation app) made life noticeably easier and created results that rivaled any black-and-white conversion done in Photoshop—black-and-white photos from the R2400 are rich and vibrant, and blacks have more depth than anything we've seen from any other printer. The R2400 also creates impressive color photos with excellent fidelity and pop. You'll see little to no difference between the R2400's color images and images created at your favorite color-photo laboratory.

The print times are an improvement over the Stylus Photo 2200 (which the R2400 replaces). When we printed 8-by-10-inch color glossy prints, print times ranged from 1 to 2 minutes; the more coverage an image required, the longer it took to print. Our 4-by-6-inch glossy prints hit the output tray in under a minute.

The bottom line. Epson has done itself proud with the Stylus Photo R2400. The hefty price means it's meant for serious, professional photogs, but they'll find it's worth every penny.—*Rick Oldano*

➤ GLOSSY VS. MATTE

Glossy or matte media—which should you use? Glossy is good for printing snapshots or when you want vibrant colors, and its shiny finish can give your pics a hint of glamour. The drawback is that it's easy to see fingerprints on glossy stock, and at some angles, it can be hard to see a glossy print behind glass. Matte is excellent for black-and-white photos, photos that will be handled frequently, or photos behind glass. However, colors aren't as lively, and the texture of some types of matte stock can interfere with the smoothness of an image and show up in scans.

TIP

COMPANY: Epson
CONTACT: 800-463-7766, www.epson.com

PRICE: $849.99
REQUIREMENTS: USB- or FireWire 400–equipped Mac, Mac OS 10.2.4 or later

GOOD NEWS: Features will satisfy serious photogs. Outstanding black-and-white prints. Gorgeous image quality.
BAD NEWS: Pricey.

MacAddict RATED ●●●●● AWESOME

Chatalog

MINDFUL iCHAT UTILITY

Chatalog makes it easy to access important iChat transcripts by delivering them to your email client for proper archiving. Chatalog installs as a System Preference, and you can configure it to send iChat transcripts to any email account by simply supplying a destination address. You can even have Chatalog keep a collection of images and URLs sent in iChat.

In the mail. Once you've ended a chat session and closed the chat window, Chatalog sends the transcript to your email. The transcript appears in your email inbox with a subject line of "[IM]

ON THE DISC
Chatalog

user name," where *user name* is the name of your chat buddy. Unfortunately, all your

Total Words Chatted

Spoken | Recieved

Spoken: **238**
Received: **291**
Total: **529**

Chatalog tracks how many words have been received and "spoken" on iChat. It also needs to learn the "I before E except after C" rule.

transcripts are named this way, so you'll have to rename the emails once you receive them if you want to be able to sort them by subject.

Chatalog archives the images and URLs from your chats in an HTML file that resides on your Mac (/*user name*/Library/Chatalog/index.html). Open the file and you'll find a list of URLs; a catalog of images; and a nifty stat tracker that tells you how many words have been used in your chats, the number of what its preset

list considers cuss words, and more. However, to purge the archive, you have to go into the /*user name*/Library folder, look for the Chatalog folder, and delete it. When you use iChat again, Chatalog will recreate a fresh HTML archive file. It'd be nice if there were a way to purge the folder directly through Chatalog's preferences.

The bottom line. Chatalog turns your iChats into acceptably manageable files on your Mac.—*Roman Loyola*

COMPANY: Freeverse
CONTACT: 212-929-3549, www.freeverse.com
PRICE: $12.95 (personal), $24.95 (business)

REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 10.3 or later (Mac OS 10.4 or later for Chatalog Dashboard widget), iChat AV

GOOD NEWS: Easy to use. Cheap.
BAD NEWS: No options for email subjects. No convenient way to clear Chatalog archive.

MacAddict RATED
◉◉◉◉○
SOLID

CatDV Pro 4

PRODUCTIVE MEDIA MANAGER

Think of CatDV Pro as iPhoto for video, enabling you to import, preview, and export movie clips—or any media supported by QuickTime—though this neat app is much more than just a media-management tool; it's also a nifty DV-capture app.

When you launch CatDV, it treats you to a sparse, slightly puzzling interface. For example, icons in the toolbar don't have any labels, but they do have rollover tooltips. However, once you're familiar with the interface (it doesn't take long), you'll probably forgive CatDV for not being iLife-ish.

CatDV does a good job of managing many media files, although the interface could be a little friendlier.

Organized. Using the built-in Live Capture tool, you can effortlessly import footage from tape and place it into a folder. Live Capture reads the timecode on your tape and divides the capture automatically into clips. You can, thankfully, adjust the in and out points for each clip. You can import clips from your hard drive, as well. The Verbatim Logger is a nice feature, enabling you to write comments about a clip as it plays. The ability to search for clips by metadata is a necessity, and the ability to batch-convert media clips is a well-thought-out addition (and something you can't do in QuickTime Pro).

At $275, CatDV Pro is pretty pricey, but the app includes export formats for Final Cut Pro, Avid, and more. It also lets you hook up to a CatDV workgroup server when managing media across a company.

The bottom line. CatDV Pro is an effective tool for media-asset management. It excels at the job it sets out to do.—*Rob Carney*

COMPANY: Square Box Systems
CONTACT: +44 7050 372230, www.squarebox.co.uk
PRICE: $275

REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 10.2 or later, 256MB RAM, QuickTime 6 or later, Java 1.3.1 or later

GOOD NEWS: Good capture and management tools.
BAD NEWS: Expensive. Bare interface.

MacAddict RATED
○○○○○
GREAT

FinePix F10

ADEPT DIGITAL CAMERA

Turning up the sensitivity on most digital cameras often results in grainy and inferior images. Fujifilm has tackled this issue with the FinePix F10, which works at sensitivities all the way up to ISO 1600—and the quality of the shots produced at this setting is quite good. To reach ISO 1600, the F10 uses a larger sensor and some clever engineering.

The F10 is a compact 6-megapixel camera with a 3x optical zoom that stores good-looking, accurate, and sharp images on xD-Picture Cards. Unfortunately, the camera only comes with a miserly 16MB card—be prepared to buy a larger card if you want to be able to store a reasonable number of shots. The F10 has a beefy battery that can snap up to 500 shots (without using the flash) before it needs to be recharged.

Smart screen. The luxurious 2.5-inch color LCD screen has a refresh rate of 60 frames per second. Such a large, high-quality screen makes taking pictures a

The FinePix F10 loves the nightlife.

pleasure—no squinting while checking your shots. A sensor adjusts the screen's brightness to account for your viewing conditions. For example, the screen brightens on a sunny day so you can easily see your pictures; in the darkness, the screen dims so you're not blinded.

If the F10 has a fault, it's that its controls are a bit basic. You have a choice of five scene modes, a fully automatic mode, and a manual mode that lets you change just a few settings—certainly not the degree of customization or control you'd expect to find on a camera of this price. The lack of controls would be fine if the camera were aimed and priced at beginners, but most people spending over $300 on a digital camera would expect shutter- and aperture-priority controls as well as manual exposure.
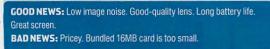
The bottom line. If snapping candid photos in dark conditions is your thing, or if you need to take photos in places where the use of a flash is prohibited, then the FinePix F10 makes a great deal of sense.—*Mark Sparrow*

THREE-LEGGED FRIEND
When you're taking photos in low-light conditions or of stationary subjects, a jitter-minimizing tripod is your best friend. If you can't tote a tripod, set your camera on whatever sturdy surface you can find to keep it steady.

COMPANY: Fujifilm
CONTACT: 800-800-3854, www.fujifilm.com

PRICE: $499
REQUIREMENTS: USB-equipped Mac, Mac OS 10.2.8 or later, 256MB RAM, 400MB disk space

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GOOD NEWS: Low image noise. Good-quality lens. Long battery life. Great screen.
BAD NEWS: Pricey. Bundled 16MB card is too small.

MacAddict RATED
⬤⬤⬤⬤◯
SOLID

Epson's RX620 (left) and Canon's MP780 (right) can fax, print, scan—and handle photos, too.

Pixma MP780 & Stylus Photo RX620

PHOTO-FRIENDLY MULTIFUNCTION PRINTERS

Canon's Pixma MP780 and Epson's Stylus Photo RX620 are multifunction printers (MFPs) that can print, scan, fax, and—contrary to what you've come to expect from MFPs—handle photo printing, too.

MP780. Canon's 18.5-by-19.1-by-12-inch inkjet MFP is a paper-handling speed demon, good for both general business and photo printing. In addition to the 150-sheet media cassette feeder and the 150-sheet rear media tray, the MP780 also has a 35-page automatic document feeder for copies or scans. The fax machine can hold 250 pages in memory. The MP780 can also automatically print on both sides of a page.

The MP780 connects to your Mac via USB and has an LCD screen for selecting options. The scanner has a maximum optical resolution of 2,400 by 4,800 dpi, while the printer (which uses five ink cartridges) has a maximum resolution of 600 by 600 dpi for monochrome and 4,800 by 1,200 dpi for color.

RX620. The 23.3-by-17.7-by-11.9-inch RX620 is designed with photos in mind. Its only media feeder—a rear tray—holds 120 sheets. It has a media-card reader that's compatible with CompactFlash Type I and II, SD card, and more; and it has Direct Print and PictBridge support. The RX620's 2.5-inch LCD lets you perform simple image-editing tasks without having to use your Mac. Serious photogs will like the scanner's built-in transparency unit for scanning 35mm negatives, slides, and transparencies.

The RX620 uses a USB connection, contains six separate ink cartridges,

and has a maximum resolution of 5,760 by 1,440 dpi. The scanner's maximum optical resolution is 2,400 by 4,800 dpi.

Speed. When it comes to which prints faster, the MP780 wins, hands down. It took the MP780 a speedy 7 minutes, 35 seconds to print a 50-page Word document at the normal print setting, while the RX620 took 36 minutes. (The MP780 took 26 minutes to *duplex*, or print on both sides of the page, the same Word document.) On the MP780, an 8-by-10-inch color photo printed in 96 seconds and an 4-by-6-inch photo took 52 seconds. The RX620 took 5 minutes, 18 seconds to print the 8 by 10; it took 2 minutes, 41 seconds for the 4 by 6. A two-page Excel spreadsheet took 55 seconds on the MP780, while the RX620 took 90 seconds.

Print times were closer when dealing with a 15-page PowerPoint presentation; the MP780 took 14 minutes, 15 seconds, while the RX620 took 15 minutes, 42 seconds. When it came to scanning, both MFPs took about 25 seconds to scan an 8-by-10-inch photo at 300 dpi.

Image quality. Both printers do an excellent job of printing detailed, crisp photos. The dozens of photos we printed from the RX620 all had a blue cast to them, though they also had a color vibrancy not found in the MP780's photos. We prefer the MP780 for its more-accurate colors.

The MP780 also does a better job with text and business graphics. Text in Word and PDF documents from the MP780 was clean, but we saw a considerable amount of fuzziness from the RX620. The MP780 also produced richer colors in our charts and graphs, although the MP780's printout of a plain-paper PowerPoint presentation had considerably more curl from ink saturation than the RX620's.

When scanning, both the RX620 and MP780 accurately captured colors and details; we found only minor differences in our scans.

The bottom line. While we like many of the RX620's features that aren't found on the MP780, the MP780 wins with its combination of speed and image quality.—*Roman Loyola*

Stylus Photo RX620

COMPANY: Epson
CONTACT: 800-463-7766, www.epson.com
PRICE: $299
REQUIREMENTS: USB-equipped Mac, Mac OS 10.2 or later

GOOD NEWS: Quiet. Many in-printer photo-editing features. Vibrant colors.
BAD NEWS: Slow. Slight blue cast on photos.

MacAddict RATED ●●●○○ **SOLID**

Pixma MP780

COMPANY: Canon
CONTACT: 800-652-2666, www.canon.com
PRICE: $249
REQUIREMENTS: USB-equipped Mac, Mac OS 10.2.4 or later

GOOD NEWS: Fast. Excellent color accuracy on photographs.
BAD NEWS: Noisy. Slow duplexing.

MacAddict RATED ●●●●○ **GREAT**

EDITORS' *MacAddict* CHOICE

I-Dog

CUTE LITTLE INTERACTIVE AUDIO SPEAKER

Hasbro's I-Dog is a robotic canine that isn't fond of Milk Bones. But play him some groovin' tunes and show him some affection, and he'll make quite an entertaining companion—but only for as long as your attention span will allow.

The pint-sized I-Dog is a dapper little fellow; his white and pseudo-chrome body is a true complement to a standard iPod. I-Dog draws his power from two AA batteries (not included) and comes with an audio splitter cable—plug one male end into the I-Dog (his side, thankfully), the other male end into your iPod, and a set of headphones into the remaining female end if you'd rather not listen to the I-Dog's weak and tinny built-in speaker. You can also bypass the cable altogether and simply place

I-Dog next to a speaker and watch him do his thing.

Tricks. I-Dog's bag of tricks is limited. He can rotate his head and ears, bark, whimper, and flash colorful LEDs in set patterns. The patterns key you into I-Dog's mood, which can peak at Ecstatic and hit an absolute low at Sick. I-Dog has eight different moods (the manual matches each LED pattern to its mood); your job is to keep I-Dog happy.

If I-Dog isn't at his best, simply find out what type of music he wants to listen to by double-clicking his nose to hear a sample tune in one of three genres: rock, techno, or hip hop. Play the right type of music, and he'll be one happy pup—and it's amazing how accurately the lil' fella can distinguish tunes. It also doesn't hurt

At least he doesn't drink from the toilet bowl.

to give him some love now and then by petting his head and pressing his nose. It's interesting to experiment with stirring up different moods.

The bottom line. I-Dog's novelty wore off after a few hours, but we're fickle. I-Dog is a cute alternative to iTunes' Visualizer. Best of all, it won't crap on your lawn.—*Gil Loyola*

COMPANY: Hasbro
CONTACT: 800-327-8264, www.hasbro.com
PRICE: $29.99

REQUIREMENTS: Two AA batteries, audio input

GOOD NEWS: Cute. Cable accommodates headphones. Develops different moods. Spaying and neutering not necessary.
BAD NEWS: Weak speaker. Novelty wears off quickly. Can't play fetch or roll over on command.

MacAddict RATED ⬤⬤⬤◯◯ **SOLID**

C01U

SIMPLE AND SOUND USB MICROPHONE

If your acoustic-recording studio is a 'Book and you like to travel light, lugging along MIDI gear gives you the blues. And for most podcasters, shelling out $300 or more for a decent microphone preamp is a waste of cash. Simplicity is the secret to acoustic-recording happiness, and Samson Audio's C01U USB studio condenser microphone is as simple as a mic can be. It connects to your Mac through USB and has no buttons, switches, or knobs on its surface—just a little green power light. It works with GarageBand or any other digital-audio software.

The C01U's wide diaphragm scoops up sound well, easily swallowing up vocals and acoustic guitar before spitting them into your software with

remarkable fidelity. For better editing control, we recommend recording vocals and guitar tracks separately; but for live recording sessions, this mic is a good option.

Tough enough. While the C01U was made for the studio, it's strong enough for the road. Its heavy mesh mic screen withstands the occasional bumps that are inevitable on any tour, and its matte silver finish holds up against most dings.

Our only complaint with this USB mic is that you can only use

Simple enough for your 'Book-based studio. Strong enough for the road.

it with recording software. The first time we plugged it in, we weren't sure it was working because Mac OS X didn't address it as a system microphone. Instead, we had to launch our digital-audio software to get our Mac to recognize the C01U. (You can also use the mic's driver software, though it doesn't ship with the device; you have to download it from www .samsontech.com.)

The bottom line. For acoustic and vocal recordings, the C01U works well, and its USB connectivity is a welcome bonus.—*Robert Strohmeyer*

COMPANY: Samson Audio
CONTACT: 510-364-2244, www.samsontech.com
PRICE: $234.99

REQUIREMENTS: USB-equipped Mac, Mac OS 10.1 or later, any digital-audio workshop app

GOOD NEWS: Wide diaphragm picks up acoustic audio even at moderate distances. Heavy-duty construction survives life on the road even in your backpack.
BAD NEWS: Doesn't work as a system mic in OS X.

MacAddict RATED ⬤⬤⬤⬤◯ **GREAT**

Mathematica CalcCenter 3

EASY-BUT-POWERFUL MATH SOFTWARE

Mathematica Professional is the 800-pound gorilla of math software—but it can be hard to tame. Enter Mathematica CalcCenter 3, a heavy-duty graphing calculator for the slightly less hardcore. CalcCenter 3 is based on Mathematica's algorithm set— the same commands and syntax hold true—but it adds a button- and menu-based interface that doesn't require you to memorize a googolplex of written commands. Plus, CalcCenter 3 provides a handy guide for oft-used calculations in a floating Controller window.
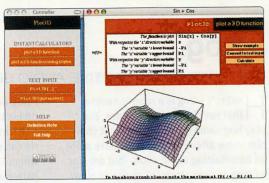
You'll love CalcCenter 3's InstantCalculators, which include easy-to-use SmartPlots that

ON THE DISC
Mathematica CalcCenter 3

prompt you to enter a function and your desired bounds before creating a graph. SmartPlots include functions of one or two variables, various types of data plots, plus pie and bar charts. Other InstantCalculators step you through basic functions such as taking the derivative of or integrating a function (along with the numerical equivalents of both), summations, and power and product series. Each InstantCalculator has a built-in example to help you get started. More good news: CalcCenter 3 creates standard NB math files to share with your number-crunching compatriots.

Not a math geek? InstantCalculators are a godsend. However, navigating

With the help of CalcCenter 3's Controller (left), you can fill a notebook (right) with graphs and calculations.

the levels of the Controller is tedious, especially if your calculations require multiple symbols and natural constants; use the menu bar instead if you want to speed things up.

The bottom line. If you want a graphing calculator and symbolic-math mangler, and you're intimidated by Mathematica's interface, CalcCenter 3 is the way to go.—*Carey Myslewski*

COMPANY: Wolfram Research **CONTACT:** 800-441-6284, www.wolfram.com	**PRICE:** $595 (standard), $195 (educational), $99.95 (student) **REQUIREMENTS:** Mac OS X or later	**GOOD NEWS:** Helpful button-based hand holding. Support for symbolic math. Support for NB files. **BAD NEWS:** Button levels aren't as easy to navigate as they should be. No support for Mathematica Professional app packs.

MacAddict RATED
◉◉◉◉◎ **GREAT**

WGXB102 56 Mbps Wall-Plugged Wireless Range Extender Kit

SLICK WI-FI-EXTENDER HARDWARE

If you're down on Wi-Fi because it can't reach the outer limits of your home, NetGear's WGXB102 56 Mbps Wall-Plugged Wireless Range Extender Kit might restore your faith. The WGXB102 takes a different approach to extending your range: Instead of using an antenna to boost your signal, the WGXB102 uses the electrical wiring in your home.

The first piece of the WGXB102 is a bridge; connect it via an Ethernet cable to your network router, and then plug it into a nearby power socket. The second piece is the range extender, which you plug into a power socket in the room where you want Wi-Fi. The bridge makes a connection to the extender by using the power lines in your home, and the

extender provides Wi-Fi access in the area where it resides. In our tests, the device's signal extended to adjacent rooms, but the strength wasn't as powerful as our Wi-Fi router's—partly because the WGXB102 is so low to the ground.

You configure the WGXB102 through a Web page; we were up and running within 15 minutes. Two caveats: The WGXB102 must connect directly to a wall socket (you can't plug it into a power strip), and neither the bridge nor the extender provides a replacement power socket. Also, the 54-Mbps speed claimed in the name refers to the kit's 802.11g

Extend your Wi-Fi, but you'll have to move your night-light.

(AirPort Extreme) compatibility. While it's also 802.11b (AirPort) compatible, the maximum speed you can get with that is 11 Mbps—if you're lucky.

The bottom line. The WGXB102 is pricier than some extender antennas, but if you have lots of concrete walls or other Wi-Fi obstacles in your home, it could be your savior.—*Roman Loyola*

COMPANY: NetGear **CONTACT:** 408-907-8000, www.netgear.com **PRICE:** $139	**REQUIREMENTS:** Wi-Fi network, available wall power outlet	**GOOD NEWS:** Elegant design. **BAD NEWS:** Can't plug into a power strip. No replacement outlet for the one it occupies.

MacAddict RATED
◉◉◉◉◎ **GREAT**

HarmonyAudio

NO-FUSS AUDIO HARDWARE INTERFACE

Miglia's HarmonyAudio is a FireWire-based audio interface—you use it to connect your electronic instruments (such as your vintage 1963 Fiesta Red Strat) or any analog audio source to your Mac so you can record the sound in GarageBand, Logic, or any other Core Audio–compliant app.

HarmonyAudio's front panel has two 0.25-inch jacks for connecting *instruments*, microphones, or other analog devices. Each jack has a gain control for adjusting channel volume, buttons for adjusting the impedance (appropriate for certain types of mics), and Miglia's SoftClip technology, which prevents digital clipping. In addition, the HarmonyAudio has a 3.5mm stereo headphone socket and headphone-gain control to adjust the volume sent to the headphones. The back panel has four 3.5mm two-channel outputs, two FireWire ports, an optional power-supply port, and stereo-input controls for adjusting the volumes of the left and right channels independently. All in all, it's a fairly comprehensive set of features.

Plug and play. The HarmonyAudio is straightforward to use; no software installation is needed. We just hooked it up to a FireWire port, selected the HarmonyAudio as the connected audio device in System Preferences > Sound > Input, and got instant results with GarageBand and Logic Pro 7. The input jacks worked well with both an electric

Enhance your Mac's audio capabilities.

guitar and a stereo keyboard. The outputs coped admirably with stereo and 7.1-channel setups. And, most importantly, our audio sounded good.

The bottom line. HarmonyAudio is a good fit for GarageBand and Logic Express users looking for a decent interface. Audio pros will want to invest in an interface with more inputs and additional controls.—*Cliff Douse*

COMPANY: Miglia **CONTACT:** +44 870 7472988, www.miglia.com **PRICE:** $316	**REQUIREMENTS:** FireWire 400–equipped Mac, Mac OS 10.3.5 or later, 256MB RAM	**GOOD NEWS:** Looks complement the Power Mac G5. Performs well. Lightweight case. **BAD NEWS:** Pricey.	**MacAddict RATED** ○○○○○ **SOLID**

PhotoKit Color

COLORFUL PHOTOSHOP PLUG-INS

PixelGenius's PhotoKit Color is a set of Photoshop plug-ins that lets you adjust your images in many artsy and practical ways, producing professional results in almost no time at all.

The filters include Cross Processing (techniques often done in a photo lab), Color Overlays, Split Toning (tone effects for black-and-white or color photos), Tone Enhance, Color Enhance, CC Correction (color-compensating filters), CT Correction (color shifting), and RSA Color Correction (color balancing). It takes time to get a feel for the color-correction, but it's time well spent—the filters can produce precise results that aren't easy to get using Photoshop's Curves, Levels, or Hue/Saturation controls. RSA Correction aims to give a neutral tone, but it can

falter if your image doesn't have distinct black-and-white points. The Cross Processing and Split Toning filters achieve the same kind of results you'd get from traditional film-based cross processing and split toning. Tone Enhance and Color Enhance could have been sold as their own plug-in pack—these are some of the best filters on the market, adjusting your images so it looks like you made the right exposure to begin with instead of just lightening or darkening your whole image.

Unlike many Photoshop plug-ins, PhotoKit Color doesn't have a preview window. Fortunately, the filters are fast, so you don't have to wait long to see how an applied filter looks.

The bottom line. PhotoKit Color transforms so-so images into usable ones, turns good photos into great ones, and make it look like we, too, are pixel geniuses.—*Steven Parke*

PhotoKit Color can take an original (left), add a yellow light (middle), or give it a grainy look (right).

PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVEN PARKE

COMPANY: PixelGenius	**REQUIREMENTS:** PowerPC,
CONTACT: www.pixelgenius.com	Mac OS 9.1 to 9.x or 10.1.3 or later,
PRICE: $99.95	128MB RAM, 350MB disk space, Photoshop 7 or later

GOOD NEWS: Fast. Excellent, professional-looking results.
BAD NEWS: Can't preview effects.

MacAddict RATED
◉◉◉◉◯
GREAT

Micro Hard Drive

SNAZZY USB HARD DRIVE

The coolest thing about the Micro Hard Drive is what's inside its chic case: a 2GB or 4GB 0.85-inch Toshiba hard drive. That's about the size of a postage stamp. (Insert your own "I remember when hard drives were *yay* big" memory here.)

The Micro's case measures 1.61 by 0.66 by 3.3 inches, and its tuckable, durable USB 2.0 connector gives the drive its padlock look. While we didn't hear a peep (or a beep) out of the 3,600-rpm Micro, we did notice that it heated up during our testing—though not so hot that we couldn't touch it; we're talking PowerBook-type warmth. The drive continued to work without a glitch despite the heat.

Speed. Imation touts a read speed of 5MB per second and a write speed

of 3MB per second, and our test results came close to those numbers. Using the Xbench benchmarking tool (free, www.xbench .com) on our dual 2.7GHz Power Mac G5, we got an average read speed of 4.67MB per second and an average write speed of 2.97MB per second. When we duplicated 200MB of files of various sizes in the Finder, however, the Micro took a sluggish 19 minutes.

The drive comes bundled with version 1.0 of Imation's Security Manager software, which functions fine with earlier versions of Mac OS X, but

Inside this case is the world's tiniest hard drive.

doen't work with Mac OS 10.4 (Tiger). Imation says it's working on a Tiger-compatible version that will soon be available at Imation's Web site. You can assign a password to the drive, but oddly, we were still able to access our password-protected drive on Macs not running the Security Manager software.

The bottom line. The Micro Hard Drive provides a lot of storage in a lil' package. Just don't bother with the software.—*Roman Loyola*

COMPANY: Imation	**REQUIREMENTS:** USB-
CONTACT: 888-466-3456,	equipped Mac, Mac OS 10.2
www.imation.com	or later
PRICE: $159 (2GB, tested), $189 (4GB)	

GOOD NEWS: Nice design.
BAD NEWS: Bundled software doesn't work with Tiger.

MacAddict RATED
◉◉◉◉◯
GREAT

Squeezebox2

COMPROMISED DIGITAL-MUSIC PLAYER

Slim Devices' Squeezebox2 connects to your Wi-Fi or Ethernet network and to your stereo or powered speaker system so you can play music from your Mac in another room. It's not as straightforward as Roku's SoundBridge (●●●●○ Feb/05, p46), but it's a capable device.

Setup is reasonably simple. Attach it to your music system via the included analog stereo RCA cable or your own digital-optical or digital-coaxial cable, screw in the antenna, and enter your network's password. (Neither the antenna nor the password is required for an Ethernet connection.) Then, go to your Mac, download the SlimServer software from Slim Devices' Web site, install it, and tell it where your music files are stored. If you keep them all in your iTunes Music folder, SlimServer recognizes your iTunes playlists; if not, SlimServer's Web

interface lets you set up playlists yourself. SlimServer supports MP3, WAV, FLAC, WMA, AIFF, unprotected AAC, Ogg Vorbis, and Apple Lossless files. Once set up, you use the included remote to browse artists, albums, or playlists; play songs; control volume; and so on.

When it comes to playing your iTunes music, Roku's SoundBridge wins over the Squeezebox2 on several counts. Squeezebox2's SlimServer software recognizes new playlists you create in iTunes, but it doesn't forget ones you deleted in iTunes unless you force a refresh through SlimServer's Web interface. And while the Squeezebox2 display shows the name of the song currently playing, it doesn't show the artist or album info (as the SoundBridge does) without a few extra remote clicks.

The sound quality from the Squeezebox2, however, is better than that of the SoundBridge when played through a stereo system, though the difference was less noticeable on powered speakers. Squeezebox2's 320-by-32-pixel display can play animated frequency spectrums or a visualizer.

The bottom line. The Squeezebox2 can do a few things the SoundBridge can't, such as serve as an Ethernet bridge or play music located somewhere other than your iTunes folder. But if you just want a streaming iTunes music player, the SoundBridge is a better choice—at $149.99 (including Wi-Fi) for the base model, it's cheaper, easier to set up, and better-integrated with iTunes.—*Jake Widman*

COMPANY: Slim Devices
CONTACT: 650-210-9400, www.slimdevices.com
PRICE: $199 (wired), $279 (wireless)

REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 10.1.5 or later, Ethernet or Wi-Fi network

GOOD NEWS: Reads iTunes playlists and plays Internet radio stations. Can act as an Ethernet bridge.
BAD NEWS: Expensive. Requires additional (downloadable) software. Inconsistent display.

Mac*Addict* RATED
●●●●○
SOLID

LEGO Star Wars
CHARMING ACTION-ADVENTURE GAME

Combine the legendary Star Wars saga with classic LEGO blocks, and what do you get? LEGO Star Wars, obviously, a game with charm and plenty of humor. The blend of licenses works surprisingly well, from the music and sound effects (ripped right from the movies) to the blocky graphical style of the environments.

Tons of toys. You control one of over 40 characters from *Episode I*, *II*, and *III* (sorry fan boys, pregnant Padmé is not a playable character) in a game that plays much like a platform-hopping Mario game—only instead of collecting coins, you collect LEGO studs. Combat can be repetitive—you just hack through levels—but each character has special abilities that add some variety. To reach difficult places, for example, Jedi Knights can use Force powers to flip switches and levitate structures; Jar Jar Binks (yes, *that* Jar Jar Binks) can jump higher than most; and Padmé can use her grapple gun.

Extras. LEGO studs are hidden everywhere; collect enough, and you can turn them in to earn more characters, unlock goodies, and get parts to build trophy vehicles that appear outside of Dexter's Diner. You won't be able to get all the studs in one trip, so the game

TIP

🔰 **BELLY UP TO THE BAR**
Go to Dexter's Diner, then head to the bar where you type in codes. Enter these codes to enhance your gameplay:
LD1168 Reveal an arrow that points to canisters.
RP924W Put mustaches on your characters.
4PR28U Make your characters invincible.
L449HD Enable classic movie blasters.

Your defeated foes shatter into their component parts—and valuable studs.

offers a Free Mode in which you pick two different characters and run a level again, unlocking more hidden areas—it's a compelling reason to replay levels multiple times, and it nicely extends the life of the game.

Multiplayer play is handled well, as a second player can jump in at any time to take control of a Mac-operated ally already in the action. The controls can be a little wacky, especially since you can't control the camera, but calibrating your gamepad in the main menu helps the responsiveness of your character. LEGO Star Wars runs fairly decently on a Mac that meets the game's minimum requirements, but the action suffers from serious slowdown during more chaotic scenes where LEGO chunks are flying everywhere—bringing back childhood memories of hundreds of LEGO bricks strewn across the floor while building LEGO castles, cars, houses, and airplanes.

The bottom line. LEGO Star Wars offers fun and simple gameplay for Padawan gamers while still holding the attention of Yoda-aged fans. May the blocks be with you.—*Matt Osborn*

COMPANY: Aspyr
CONTACT: 888-212-7797, www.aspyr.com
PRICE: $29.99

REQUIREMENTS: 1.2GHz G4, Mac OS 10.3.8 or later, 512MB RAM, 2GB disk space, 32MB ATI Radeon 9000 or GeForce FX5200 video card or better

GOOD NEWS: Great gameplay. Charming. Flexible multiplayer on the fly.
BAD NEWS: A little short for a stormtrooper. Need Skywalker-class skills to finish the pod-racing level.

MacAddict RATED
🔵🔵🔵⚪⚪
SOLID

TC1000BN Power Ready Notebook Case
GADGET-CHARGING 'BOOK CASE

If you're juggling an iPod, cell phone, PowerBook, and PDA, you could spend half your life trying to keep everything recharged. APC's TC1000BN Power Ready Notebook Case cuts down your charging time by letting you plug in your gear without taking it out of the bag. Set the voltage dial on the included power supply to 20 volts for your PowerBook, attach the appropriate adapter to the power supply, and then run the cables through the bag's compartments to all of

Glamorous? No. Power-full? Yup.

your gear. A USB splitter lets you charge two USB devices at a time, and a host of adapters—including a FireWire one for your iPod—let you attach different kinds of devices. The case easily fits 15-inch PowerBooks and 14-inch iBooks, and it has a restraint strap for 12-inchers. 17-inchers need not apply.

The bottom line. With a conventional ballistic-nylon design, the Power Ready Notebook Case puts function before form. But the trade-off in convenience is well worth a little sacrifice in fashion. —*Robert Strohmeyer*

COMPANY: APC
CONTACT: 877-800-4272, www.apc.com
PRICE: $49.99

REQUIREMENTS: PowerBook, iBook, cell phone, PDA, or any other power-hungry gadget small enough to fit.

GOOD NEWS: Gear charges while in the bag. Lots o' adapters.
BAD NEWS: Plain-Jane nylon design.
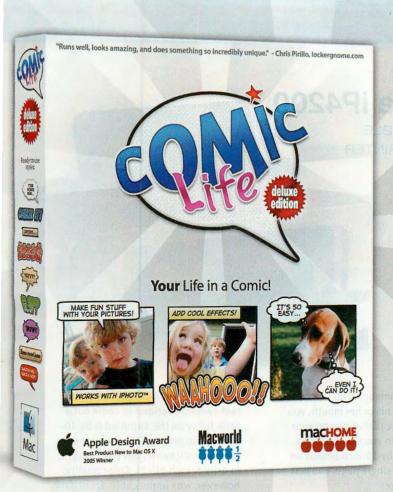
MacAddict RATED
🔵🔵🔵🔵⚪
GREAT

Pixma iP4200

AFFORDABLE INKJET PRINTER

Tree huggers may like the iP4200's ability to print on double-sided photo paper.

If you know someone who talks out of both sides of his or her mouth, you probably don't call that person your friend. But when you see the Pixma iP4200 print 8-by-10-inch photos on both sides of a single page, you just might fall in love.

The iP4200 is an affordable photo printer for the masses. Its two direct-feed trays let you switch from 4-by-6-inch prints to 8-by-10-inch ones without having to change the media in the tray. Just select your size in the onscreen printer dialog, and the iP4200 knows which tray to grab the media from—and if you choose two-sided printing, it automatically sucks the media back in to print on the second side.

In our tests, the iP4200 consistently produced 4-by-6-inch prints in well under a minute and generally printed 8-by-10-inch images in just over 2 minutes. However, because the multicartridge print system needs frequent automated cleaning, these print times sometimes extended to 3 minutes or more.

Unfortunately, the occasional longer waits don't really correspond to better images. Even crisp 2,272-by-1,704-pixel images—the highest resolution possible on our 4-megapixel Canon test camera—tended to come out a little fuzzy on the supplied 8-by-10-inch photo media. This problem was far less noticeable, but still present, in 4-by-6-inch prints. Color quality, however, was impeccable. From dark, rich reds to pale ivory highlights, the iP4200 matched our original images beautifully, even teasing out subtle variations in bright summer skies.

At only $130, we find it hard to criticize the Pixma iP4200 too severely. Certainly we expect some sacrifices—for example, the iP4200 cuts corners by leaving out the memory-card slots that have become so common on photo printers. It does, however, offer a USB port on its front panel for PictBridge printing directly from your camera.

The bottom line. Ultimately, if you're hardcore about your digital photography, the iP4200 is probably not the printer for you. It simply lacks too much in the way of imaging prowess to satisfy the Photoshop set. But if you want an inexpensive photo printer that produces decent images and two-sided prints, the iP4200 is a good choice.
—*Robert Strohmeyer*

COMPANY: Canon
CONTACT: 800-652-2666 or 516-328-5000, www.canon.com
PRICE: $129.99

REQUIREMENTS: USB-equipped Mac, Mac OS 10.2.1 or later

GOOD NEWS: Good overall speed. Two-sided photo printing lets you create albums with ease.
BAD NEWS: Images lack sharpness. No memory-card slots.

MacAddict RATED X
○○○○○
SOLID

the HotList

THE BEST OF THE BEST FROM RECENT REVIEWS

NEW THIS MONTH

ARP2600 V

The legendary ARP2600 analog synth rocked the seventies, but according to Mac-music guru David Biedny, its digital, polyphonic progeny is "even better than the real thing."

PhotoKit

Imaging pro Steven Parke declares that this package of Photoshop plug-ins "deserves to be added to the arsenal of any photo professional or serious amateur."

miniStack

After putting a trio of Mac mini–styled hard drives through their paces, *MacAddict* Reviews Editor Roman Loyola found the miniStack "stood out from the pack."

Mercury Elite-AL Pro

Roman Loyola says, "There's a lot to like about the Mercury Elite—great speed, a nice case, and a plethora of connectivity options."

SOFTWARE

AUDIO			
Apple Soundtrack Pro	$299.00	Sep/05, p40	This is one of our favorite components in the Final Cut Studio suite.
Arturia ARP2600 V	$310.00	Nov/05, p52	The legendary analog synth is back, now digital and polyphonic.
Bias SoundSoap 2	$99.00	Jul/05, p37	SoundSoap Pro's little brother is a capable audio cleaner.
Native Instruments Absynth 3	$339.00	Sep/05, p45	This surreal electronic synth has great surround-sound support.
GAMES			
Aspyr Doom 3	$49.99	Jun/05, p48	Hellish, scary fun—but not for the faint of hardware.
Aspyr The Sims 2	$49.99	Oct/05, p36	The sequel to the megapopular simulation is loaded with new goodies.
Blizzard World of Warcraft	$49.99	Apr/05, p40	This rich online role-playing game is more addictive than nicotine.
MacSoft Close Combat: First to Fight	$39.99	Sep/05, p38	One of the most intense squad-based tactical shooters around.
MacSoft Unreal Tournament 2004	$39.99	Jun/04, p48	The best first-person shooter adds new vehicles and weapons.
GRAPHICS & LAYOUT			
Adobe InCopy CS2	$249.00	Aug/05, p42	This workflow app amps up any InDesign team's productivity.
Adobe InDesign CS2	$699.00	Aug/05, p40	A strong upgrade to the world's most feature-rich layout app.
Adobe Photoshop CS2	$599.00	Aug/05, p38	A raft of new photo-focused features makes this upgrade rock.
Adobe Photoshop Elements 3.0	$89.99	Mar/05, p36	Adobe's affordable image editor gets a significant upgrade.
Corel Painter IX	$429.00	Feb/05, p38	This natural-media champ is now faster and more capable.
PixelGenius PhotoKit	$49.95	Nov/05, p48	Here's a great set of Photoshop plug-ins for your digital darkroom.
PRODUCTIVITY & UTILITIES			
Bare Bones Software BBEdit 8.0	$199.00	Jan/05, p36	By far the most powerful text editor money can buy.
Microsoft Office 2004	$399.00	Aug/04, p42	Enhancements to every app add up to a worthy upgrade.
VIDEO & ANIMATION			
Apple Final Cut Express HD	$299.00	Jul/05, p32	This low-cost editor adds HDV support, Soundtrack, and LiveType.
Apple Final Cut Pro 5	$999.00	Sep/05, p36	If you want to work with HD or multicamera editing, get this now.

HARDWARE

ACCESSORIES			
Apple AirPort Express	$129.00	Oct/04, p48	This portable wireless router will stream your iTunes music.
Canary Wireless HS10	$49.95	Apr/05, p44	This device finds hotspots and reports on network status.
Epson P-2000	$499.99	Aug/05, p46	This media player's gorgeous display is a photographer's dream.
Palm Treo 650	$649.00	May/05, p44	It's the best PDA-and-cell-phone combination on the market.
AUDIO & VIDEO			
Mitsubishi HC100U	$1,495.00	Aug/05, p52	This projector/screen combo is the perfect home-theater pair.
Sonos Digital Music System	$1,199.00	Jun/05, p36	Pricey, yes—but it's the best music streamer you can buy.
Tivoli Audio iPal	$149.99	Nov/04, p50	You won't believe the sound of this compact radio and speaker.
DIGITAL CAMERAS			
Canon EOS Digital Rebel XT	$999.00	Sep/05, p44	A compelling reason to switch from your old point-and-shoot.
Canon PowerShot A85	$299.99	Mar/05, p40	This 4-megapixel point-and-shoot beauty takes great pictures.
Nikon D70 Digital SLR	$1,299.00	Jul/04, p50	It's as close to perfect as any digital SLR camera we've seen.
PRINTERS			
Brother International HL-2070N	$169.99	Sep/05, p53	This affordable laser printer is great for text, charts, and graphs.
Epson Stylus Photo R1800	$549.00	Sep/05, p43	If you're a serious photog, this inkjet is worth every penny.
Konica Minolta magicolor 2430 DL	$499.00	Oct/05, p44	Want fast photo-quality laser images at a good price? Here y'go.
SCANNERS			
Epson Perfection 4180	$199.99	Oct/04, p39	Superior image quality earns this scanner our recommendation.
Microtek ScanMaker i320	$99.99	Oct/05, p35	Killer photo-rescue software comes with this affordable unit.
STORAGE			
ILY SlimDVDup	$699.00	Apr/05, p45	Quickly duplicate CDs and DVDs without tying up your Mac.
LaCie Big Disk Extreme 500GB	$399.00	Aug/04, p55	Cutting-edge technology provides cutting-edge performance.
LaCie d2 DVD±RW Double Layer	$149.00	Feb/05, p48	Cram 8.5GB of data onto DVDs with this speedy burner.
Newer Technology miniStack 400GB	$359.99	Nov/05, p42	This speedy Mac mini–style drive is also a FireWire and USB hub.
OWC Mercury Elite-AL Pro 400GB	$329.99	Nov/05, p50	Speed, a great case, FireWire 800/400, and USB 2.0—all good stuff.
Sony DRX-710UL-T	$229.95	Jun/05, p46	This double-layer burner has scorching single-layer performance.
WiebeTech TrayDock	$169.95	May/05, p49	This slick hard-drive enclosure provides the ultimate in flexibility.
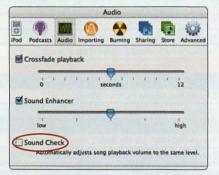
ask us

BURNING VOLUME QUESTION

When I burn an audio CD, its volume level comes out much lower than a store-bought CD's. How can I fix this problem?
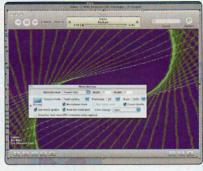
You can uncheck Sound Check.

Many variables affect your burned CDs, from the bit rate and source to the quality of the original CD rip. But the most common cause of volume discrepancies is iTunes' Sound Check feature, which adjusts song playback so that all songs play at about the same volume. Try turning it off—go to iTunes › Preferences; in iTunes 4.x, click

the Audio tab; in version 5, click the Playback tab.

VISUAL CAPTURE

Is there a way to capture iTunes' cool Visualizer as a movie?

Snapz captures as much of the onscreen action as you desire.

iTunes generates its eye candy on the fly, so you can't just grab a movie file out of a some hidden folder. What you *can* do is intercept the visuals with a screen-capture utility such as Snapz Pro X 2 ($69, on the Disc or download from www.ambrosiasw.com), which

lets you capture all or part of what happens on your screen as a QuickTime movie.

KEY EJECT KEY

I replaced my iMac keyboard with a non-Apple keyboard. Now I can't eject a CD since there's no Eject key. Do I have to buy an Apple 'board?

If your keyboard lacks Apple's official upper-right-hand-corner Eject key, you can eject CDs or DVDs by pressing

and holding the F12 key until the eject symbol appears on your display. And don't fret, Dashboard fans—you can still tap F12 to activate Dashboard. You can also change Dashboard's default trigger key in System Preferences › Dashboard & Exposé.

I WANT CD TEXT!

When I burn CDs in iTunes to play in my car stereo, I can't get CD Text to display. What's the secret?

CD Text is just additional info placed at the header of a disc; some CD players use it to display song info (such as artist and title) while playing. Unfortunately, iTunes can't create discs with CD Text. While you're waiting for this feature to show up in a future version, Roxio's Toast ($99, www.roxio.com) offers the ability to burn discs with CD Text, as does NewTech Infosystems' Dragon Burn ($40, www.ntius.com).

S-T-R-E-T-C-H

I just installed Tiger on my 17-inch PowerBook G4. Now, every image and icon seems to be about 10 percent wider than it should be. All my pictures, iPhoto slideshows, and QuickTime movies are stretched horizontally. What happened?

Before (left) and after (right). Fix the funhouse-mirror effect.

Your PowerBook's widescreen display has a 16:10 aspect ratio, which is wider

quick answers

QUICKIE SETUP

I have to set up a whole lab of iMacs. How can I bypass the registration screen that comes up the first time I turn them on?

The registration screen is actually an app, so just press Command-Q and then click the Skip button. This takes you

right to the Mac OS X setup screen to create users and passwords.

NAMELY

Is there a way to find and launch an application by just typing its name?

There is indeed. Just download the wonderful Namely (free, on the Disc or download from http://homepage.mac .com/asagoo/namely); open it, start typing any installed app's name, and Namely will

find and launch it. Of course, Tiger's Spotlight can do this, but Namely is much faster.

TIGER SANS DVD

I see that Tiger comes on a DVD. How am I supposed to install it on my DVD-challenged eMac?

Since you can't install Tiger via an external DVD drive, you'll need to get your new OS the old-fashioned way: on CDs. Apple's Media Exchange Program (www.apple .com/macosx/upgrade) offers Tiger CDs for $9.95—and yes, you have to first buy the Tiger DVD to qualify for this deal.

EMAIL PANE PAIN

When I launch Apple's Mail, the highlighted message is already open

than the old 4:3 standard associated with resolutions of 640 by 480, 800 by 600, and 1024 by 768. Your 'Book's native resolution is 1440 by 900, but in the name of backward compatibility, it can display 4:3-aspect-ratio resolutions of 640 by 480, 800 by 600, and 1024 by 768, placing black bars along the edges or stretching the screen to fill the extra display space. To unstretch your screen, go to System Preferences > Displays and set your resolution back to its native 1440 by 900 pixels.

DRIVE-SPACE REFRESHER

I have my desktop View Options (in the Finder, go to View > Show View Options) set to Show Item Info so I can quickly see how much space is available on my hard drive by just looking at its icon—but it only updates after I restart my Mac. What gives?

A restart isn't absolutely necessary. To force your desktop to show your hard drive's proper info, copy any file to the root level of the disk. If you have multiple hard drives, you have to do this for each drive separately.

Bonus tip: Shrink the Text Size to avoid truncating your disk-space info.

UNIX UNIVERSITY

TERMINAL UNIX

You guys are always crowing about Mac OS X's "Unix underpinnings." What the hell is that supposed to mean? How and why is all this Unix hidden?

Mac OS X's foundation is the tried-and-true Unix operating system, which—after years and years of tweaking by many very smart people—is highly stable. However, without the happy face Apple has added to it, Unix is too arcane and cryptic for ordinary users (or even many experienced users). That's why Apple chose to make the inner workings invisible from the Finder—out of sight, out of mind. This lets Apple's graphical user interface (GUI) take control and allow for a pleasant and easy-to-use experience. If you really *must* see all the directories (such as the oddly named etc, bin, opt, and var), you can do so—just open Terminal (/Utilities/Terminal) and type **ls -a** to view everything. If you want to see all the hidden Unix directories from the

Finder, use Cocktail ($14.95, on the Disc or download from www.macosxcocktail .com); launch the app and go to Interface > Finder. Check the Show Invisible Items box and click the Restart button to relaunch the Finder. Now if you need to, say, tweak your Apache Web server's configuration file or append your hosts file with updated server information (part of your daily chore routine, right, Mister Smartypants Übergeek?), you can find the required files (/etc/httpd/httpd.conf and /etc/hosts, respectively) in a Finder window and edit them in TextEdit—no Terminal hijinks required. But be wary—moving, deleting, renaming, or messing with any hidden Unix files can cripple your Mac—another reason why Apple hides them.

ON THE DISC
Cocktail

Cocktail has many powers, both simple and advanced.

hardy har hard drive
148.93 GB, .47 GB free

STEREO IN MONO

Is there a way to get my Mac's audio to output in mono so both channels are sent to both sides? I want to listen to music with just one of my earbuds in so I can still hear what's going on around me.

and flagged as read. I prefer to confirm that I want to read a message before I open it. Can I do that?

Sure. Simply double-click the dimple in the center of the horizontal bar between the message list and the message-

preview pane—the preview pane will disappear. To get your previews back, find the dimple at the bottom of the message list and double-click it again.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

I like to write my blog posts in TextEdit, then copy and paste them into my blog—but sometimes my blog software turns the text into gibberish. Help!

TextEdit saves documents as RTF (Rich Text Format) files by default, but most blog kits can't deal with RTF. When you launch TextEdit, select Format > Make Plain Text to switch to a bloggable format.

Double-click the dimple to hide message previews—or drag it to resize the panes.

You might think that the Balance slider in System Preferences > Sound would accomplish this, but that's not the case. As a matter of fact, there is no built-in way to make stereo sound monaural in Mac OS X—but your local Radio Shack stocks a $3.99 solution. Pick up a Gold Stereo-to-Mono Inline Adapter (www .radioshack.com, catalog number 274-882). It merges the two stereo channels into a single monaural signal that plays through both channels so you can keep one ear to the wall.

> Buz Zoller is a graphic designer living in Florida. He has been a devoted Mac user for over 10 years and has worked for both Apple and Power Computing.

Submit technical questions or helpful tips directly
via email (askus@macaddict.com) or c/o *MacAddict*, 150 North Hill Dr., Ste. 40, Brisbane, CA 94005.

Make Over Your Mac with Custom Icons

by Johnathon Williams

TRICKY

WHAT YOU NEED

Mac OS 10.3.9 or later (for IconBuilder)

**IconBuilder 8
($79, on the Disc, www.iconfactory.com/
iconbuilder.asp)**

**Photoshop Elements 2 or later
($79.99 download, www.adobe.com) or
Photoshop 7 or later ($599)**

**MacMerc styles (free, www.macmerc.com/
sections.php?op=viewarticle&artid=70)**

ON THE
DISC
IconBuilder 8.01
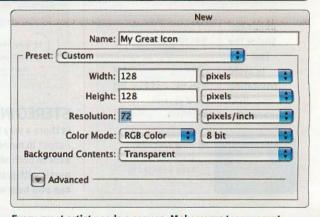
It's your desktop—jazz it up with icons of your own design.

W hen it comes to icons, we Mac users are spoiled rotten. Thanks to Aqua's visual goodies, Mac OS X is the only operating system on the planet with icons that look good enough to eat. Here, we show you how to design you own Aquafied icons, complete with lickable lighting effects and delectable drop shadows.

Before you get started, understand that while we've selected tools that make icon-crafting easy, it still takes time, effort, and good ol' paw-on-mouse action. Grab IconBuilder from the Disc, download the three MacMerc style presets (Aqua Sphere, Aqua Sphere Overlay, and Icon Subject) from the link in "What You Need" above, and prepare to get iconic.

1 Prep Your Palette
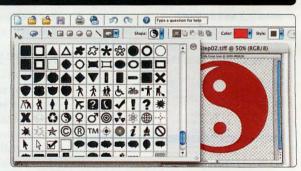
To install the IconBuilder plug-in, drag it to /Applications/ *your version of Photoshop*/Plug-Ins. Drag the IconBuilder Essentials folder to someplace handy; you'll need it later. Open Photoshop and press Command-N to create a new document; enter 128 pixels in the Width and Height fields, set the Color Mode to RGB Color (leave the second pull-down menu on 8 Bit), and select Transparent from the Background Contents pull-down menu. Photoshop users: Select the Styles palette (Window > Styles), click the arrow on the top right, and click Load Styles. Use the Load dialog that appears to locate the three MacMerc styles you downloaded earlier. Select them, click OK, and the styles will appear in the palette, ready to use. Elements users: Drag the style files into /Applications/Adobe Photoshop Elements/ Presets/Styles, and they'll appear in the Layer Styles pull-down menu within Elements' Styles And Effects window (Window > Styles And Effects).

New

Name:	My Great Icon	
Preset:	Custom	
Width:	128	pixels
Height:	128	pixels
Resolution:	72	pixels/inch
Color Mode:	RGB Color	8 bit
Background Contents:	Transparent	

▼ Advanced

Every great artist needs a canvas. Make yours transparent.

2 Shape Your Design

Select the Custom Shape Tool from the Tools palette (Window > Tools), and click the drop-down Shape menu from the Options palette (Window > Options in Photoshop; Window > Tool Options in Elements). Click the arrow at the top right, and select All in Photoshop or All Elements Shapes in Elements. Choose a shape for your icon—we chose the yin-yang symbol because of the sense of harmony it can bring to even the most cluttered desktop. Next, click the Color box in the toolbar, and select a primary color for your icon—we chose dark red. Finally, use the Custom Shape Tool to draw the shape within your document, leaving a little space on all four sides. (You want in the neighborhood of 10 pixels on the top and sides and about 20 at the bottom. It doesn't have to be exact, so feel free to eyeball it.)

Photoshop's custom shapes make a perfect starting point for icon designers—they're simple, tweakable, and free.

3 Apply Your Styles

Ordinarily, you would now have to spend hours futzing with lighting and layer effects to match Apple's Aquafied stylings. Fortunately, the good folks at MacMerc have saved you the trouble. In the Layers palette, select the layer that contains your shape. In the Styles palette, select MacMerc Aqua Sphere. Select Layer > Rasterize > Layer in Photoshop or Layer > Simplify Layer in Elements. Then select Layer > Duplicate Layer and click OK in the resulting window. In the Layers palette, select the copy of your original layer. Select Edit > Fill. From the Use drop-down menu, select 50% Gray; in the Blending area, check Preserve Transparency; then click OK. Finally, in the Styles palette, select MacMerc Aqua Sphere Overlay.
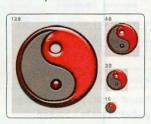
MacMerc's Aqua styles work best with spherical shapes, but they're worth trying on others as well.

4 Add Another Object

Our yin-yang shape looks pretty good at this point, but we can do better. In the Layers palette, select the original shape layer (it should be called Shape 1). Select the Magic Wand from the Tools palette, and click on the open, transparent area inside the shape. Press Command-Shift-N to create a new layer and give it a name. Now, click Edit > Fill in Photoshop or Edit > Fill Selection in Elements, select Color from the Use drop-down menu, and choose a color to fill the space. Finally, making sure the new layer is selected in the Layers palette, select MacMerc Icon Subject from the Styles palette. Now press Command-Shift-E to merge the layers. Badda-bing! Your icon is ready.
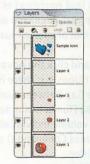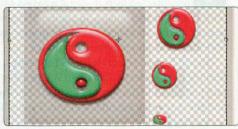
A second color or element adds depth.

5 Start the Builder

Open IconBuilder's Macintosh template (IconBuilder Essentials > IconBuilder Grid Files > Macintosh.psd). In the Layers palette, select the layer with the placeholder folder icons, and click the eye icon to hide it. Go back to your icon-design window, select the Move tool, and drag the whole design into the Macintosh.psd file you just opened. Place your design so that it fits within the large box on the left. Photoshop users: Open the Actions palette (Window > Actions), click the top-right arrow, select Load Actions, and navigate to /IconBuilder Essentials/IconBuilder Assistant. Double-click the IconBuilder 8 Assistant.atn file, and IconBuilder's actions will appear in your Actions palette. Click the action labeled Generate Macintosh Standard, and Photoshop will automatically resize your icon and place it within the smaller boxes on the template. Elements users: See step 6 instead.

IconBuilder's Photoshop actions resize your icon automatically.

6 No Actions? No Problem!

Lacking the almighty Actions palette, Elements users must prep the icon manually. After dragging your design into the template's biggest (128-pixel) box, go back to the design window and drag your icon in again—only this time, use the box corners to resize the icon to fit into the 48-pixel box, and repeat the process to fill all four boxes. Now proceed to the Layers palette and use the far-left column to hide all layers that don't contain a copy of your custom icon. Press Command-Shift-E to merge the visible layers into one layer.

Elements lacks support for Actions, so you have to resize your icons and merge your layers manually.

7 Save Your Work

With all of your icon sizes in place on one layer, press Command-A to select everything, and select Filter > IconFactory > IconBuilder 8.0. If you see an error message, click OK to make it go away. From the top-left drop-down menu, select Macintosh-Normal. Your icons should appear with the appropriate boxes around them on the right side of the screen.

To build your icon, click the left-pointing arrow in the middle of the window. Finally, click Save, and choose a name, format, and location for your icon.

IconBuilder automatically adds the necessary system resources to your icon file, sparing you a lot of time and trouble.

PASTE IT INTO PLACE

The quickest way to get your new icon onto your desktop is to select IconBuilder's option to save it as a folder icon. To reuse your icon, select its folder in the Finder, choose File > Get Info (or press Command-I), click on the icon in the upper-left corner of the Get Info window, and choose Edit > Copy (or press Command-C). Now do the same with whatever file or folder you want to iconicize; only this time, select Edit > Paste (or press Command-V) instead of Edit > Copy.

TIP

READ THE FORKIN' MANUAL!
Apple breaks its icons down by function into various design families. To view the nitpicky guidelines, head to http://developer.apple.com and search for Aqua Icons.

Better than being a legend in his own mind, Johnathon Williams is an icon on his own desktop.
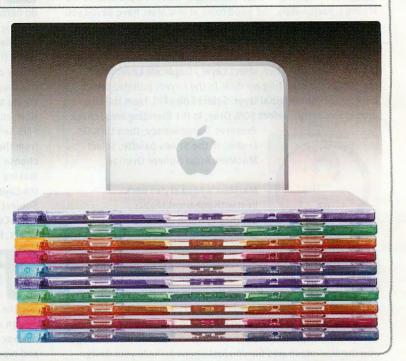
Back Up Your iTunes Tunes `EASY`

by Niko Coucouvanis

With the advent of digital music and the iTunes Music Store, you probably have a good number of possessions that you only possess in digital form, stored on a Mac that could be stolen, fried by lightning, brain-munched by hungry zombies—or worse. Here's how to back up the songs you bought from iTunes—and we mean back up for your *own* use, not to burn a bunch of copies for your deadbeat friends.

1 Rock Your Preferences

Apple can't make it too easy to convert your purchased music into an unprotected format—legal weasels call that *enabling* (as in enabling folks to easily steal music). To clarify: It's completely legal and within your rights to back up the songs you've bought in your format of choice—just don't make four copies for your mom and her bridge club.

Launch iTunes, select iTunes › Preferences, and click the Advanced tab. In the Burning pane, select Audio CD (if you're using iTunes 4.x, there is no Advanced tab; just click the Burning tab instead). Set the Gap Between Songs if you like, and check the Use Sound Check box if you'd like iTunes to normalize the volume across tracks. Hint: You can adjust any track's volume individually by opening the track's Info window (select the track and press Command-I) and selecting Options; Volume Adjustment is the topmost slider.

If you lose your purchased music, you can't just go download a new copy—better make a backup.

2 Fill Up a Playlist

How you organize your music collection is up to you, but the easiest way to create backups is to first create a playlist for each album. Click the plus-sign button in iTunes' lower-left corner to make a new playlist, and then type in the album name: *Acid Eaters* in our example. (Hint: If you want it to keep your album playlist alphabetically sorted with your other Ramones albums, name it Ramones_Acid Eaters or something similar.) After naming the playlist, select Purchased from iTunes' Source list, click the Artist or Album column header to sort by artist or album, Shift-click to select multiple songs, and drag the selection onto the appropriate playlist. Bonus: Notice how short all of these Ramones songs are? You could easily back up three or four Ramones albums in uncompressed AIFF format on a single CD. Just keep track of the status readout at the bottom of the iTunes window to keep your list within the size limits of your blank CD (typically 650MB to 700MB). If your tunes are in a compressed format, the megabyte number is misleading—look at the time instead. (Audio CDs fit about 74 to 80 minutes.)

Organizing your music into playlists is the only way to burn.

3 Ignite the Inferno

With your preferences set and your playlists stocked, initiating the backup is a push-button affair—just highlight a playlist in the Source list and click the Burn Disc button in iTunes' upper-right corner (or select File > Burn Playlist To Disc). This will create a standard audio CD that you can play in the car, home stereo, or any modern CD-playing device—such as your Mac. To restore the songs to your Mac in their original format, open iTunes > Preferences, click the Advanced tab, and select Importing. (In iTunes 4.x, there is no Advanced tab; just select the Importing tab). Select AAC Encoder or your encoder of choice from the Import Using pull-down menu.
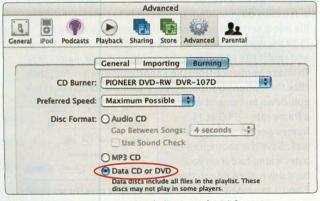
This is the part we'd automate if it weren't so illegal to do so.

4 Burn a Loooong List

Got a lot of music? Once your iTunes library grows past a few gigs, backing up to CDs becomes annoying. So if your Mac has a DVD-capable drive, use a DVD disc instead—4.7GB goes a long way. To best fill the space, create a new playlist as described in step 3, and keep dragging other playlists onto it until the status bar indicates your disc is full. Even if you overshoot the disc's capacity, iTunes is smart enough to burn what'll fit on the first disc and then prompt you for more blank discs until it's burned the whole list. The downside here is that you'll lose individual playlists—but you can export your library (File > Export Library) as an XML file that you can later use to recreate your playlists. When you want to rebuild, simply select File > Import and navigate to the exported Library.XML file.

Music whores—er, aficionados—might want to use DVDs and/or megalong playlists to streamline the process.

5 Back Up Exactly

If you don't feel right about stripping Apple's well-intentioned copy protection from your tunes—or you're sympathetic to the RIAA—you can back up your songs in the same format in which you bought them from the iTunes Music Store: Protected AAC. This kind of backup is much less "enabling" than converting the tunes to the CD-standard AIFF open format. Open iTunes > Preferences, click the Advanced tab, and select the bottom option, Data CD Or DVD. Now simply repeat step 3 to burn the songs to disc. Bonus: Backing up in Protected AAC format has the benefit of retaining your songs' album art—backing up in AIFF format strips the songs of their album art. Note that discs created this way will not work in your garden-variety CD player. Your backed-up songs will only work in iTunes on one of your five authorized Macs (or PCs).

A disc will hold way more songs in Protected AAC format than in CD-standard AIFF.

iTUNE-UPS

BACKUP EFFICIENTLY Backing up in AIFF format creates discs that are more widely compatible, but it also uses about 10 times the space per song.

DEAUTHORIZE So what happens when you reach your limit of five Macs authorized to play your iTunes-purchased music? Simple: Clear your authorizations and start fresh with five new Macs. To do so, log into the iTunes Music Store, then click on your Account name and supply your password to get to the Apple Account Information screen, which contains the master-deauthorizer button.

IMAGE ME THIS To skirt the bounds of legality a little more closely, use a disc-burning app such as NTI's Dragon Burn ($40 download, www.ntius.com) to convert your tracks to an unprotected format without wasting a blank CD. In the burn window, select CD/DVD Image Writer from the Recorder pull-down menu. We'll leave the rest of the process for you to figure out—but don't worry; it's easy.

LAST RESORT If you manage to completely lose the files for songs you've bought from the iTunes Music Store, there's still hope ... maybe. If you ask nicely, Apple might replace songs you've purchased and lost—but there's no guarantee. The company addresses lost-music complaints on a case-by-case basis, and even that might change before or after you lose your music files.

Niko Coucouvanis doesn't have to remind you again that stealing music is bad, does he?

Put a Flipbook Animation on Your iPod (EASY)

by Niko Coucouvanis

If you have a photo-capable iPod and enjoy old-tyme flipbook animation, here's how to merge the two while you save up for a new video iPod.

WHAT YOU NEED

Color-screen iPod or iPod nano ($199 to $399, www.apple.com)

iTunes 5 or later (free, www.apple.com/itunes)

QuickTime Pro 6 or later (optional, $29.95, www.apple.com)

1 Make Some Frames

The craft of flipbook animation has a rich and storied history, so we'll leave the creativity up to you—but follow these general guidelines. Firstly, stick to an iPod-friendly format (JPEG, GIF, PNG, BMP, PSD, or TIFF) when making your images. If you have an animation app such as Flash, Toon Boom Studio, or LiveStage, use it and export your animation as a series of images. As you create your animation frames, try to use the whole document window—it doesn't matter how big the window is; just fill the whole frame to keep your art visible when iTunes converts the images to iPod size.

Make sure to name the images so that the Finder will keep them sorted in order—01filename, 02filename, and so on, for example—then stash them in a folder named Flipbook.

Fill up the frame if you want to see your doodle in the iPod's screen.

3 Fill 'Er Up

When you get iTunes' photo-syncing preferences set correctly, click OK to start the sync. Note that if you've synced photos from home and are doing this project on your Mac at work, syncing will wipe out any photos that you've previously synced from the other Mac. Also note that the next time you plug in your 'Pod at work, the photos will sync automatically according to the Preferences; avoid this by unchecking the Synchronize check box. Now for the payoff: Unmount and disconnect your iPod from your Mac, and navigate to the iPod's Photo directory. Select the Flipbook folder or album, and open the first image. Once it loads, you can scroll through the images by turning the clickwheel. How's that for retro?
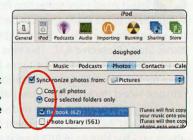
iTunes shrinks the files down so you don't have to.

2 Put 'Em on Your 'Pod

Connect your iPod to your Mac and open iTunes; select iTunes > Preferences, click the iPod icon, and then click the Photos tab. If you haven't set up photo syncing, don't fret—the actual syncing won't start until you press OK in the Preferences window. If you're already set up to sync selected iPhoto albums, you'll have to create a new album in iPhoto, import your flipbook frames (use Command-O or File > Add To Library), and then select that album in iTunes' photo-sync preferences. If you're already set up to sync your entire iPhoto library, put your Flipbook folder in your /Users/*user name*/ Pictures folder, and set iTunes to sync with your Pictures folder.

Sync options are limited, but adequate—and automatic, so disable syncing before you disconnect the iPod.

MAKE YOUR MOVIES MOBILE

Just like modern cinematics evolved out of the humble flipbook animation, you can use a similar procedure to put video clips on your 'Pod. The secret is to convert the video file into a series of still-image files using QuickTime Pro ($29.95, www.apple.com). Open a video file in QuickTime, and select File > Export. In the resulting dialog, select Movie To Image Sequence from the Export pull-down menu, then click the Options button. Select a suitable format from the pull-down menu, and enter a frame rate—JPEG at 15 frames per second works well. Save the sequences to a dedicated folder on your hard drive, then follow steps 2 and 3 to upload the frames to your iPod.

QuickTime plus iTunes equals movies to go—more or less.

Niko Coucouvanis forgot to mention that if you set the iPod's clicker to Speaker, the flipbook even sounds real.

Blow Stuff Up in Photoshop (EASY)
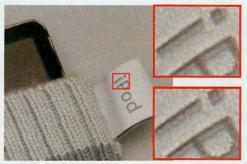
by Niko Coucouvanis

Half the draw of a high-megapixel digital camera is the prospect of overframing your shot in the field, then cropping and enlarging the good part later on your Mac. The problem is that digitally enlarging photos can be tricky—but we've got the secret. If you're scanning your image (as opposed to using one taken with your digicam), scan it at a high resolution—around 1,000 dpi (today's scanners capture up to 9,600 dpi, which is excessive for most uses). If you're snapping digitally from the get-go, set the camera to its highest resolution and best quality, and shoot in TIFF or RAW, if possible.

We enlarged the photo on the left using two methods: The top-right close-up shows the result when we did it the quick way; the bottom-right close-up shows the result when we did it the proper way—notice the subtly sharper edges.

1 Start Softly

If you plan on applying any sharpening or filter effects, do so *after* enlarging—for now, stick to auto-adjusting levels, color, and maybe brightness and contrast. In Elements, select Enhance > Auto Levels (in Photoshop, it's Image > Adjustments > Auto Levels); if the result seems excessive, use Photoshop's Edit > Fade command to adjust the Opacity to about 75 percent, then use the same procedure for Auto Color. Elements has no Fade command, so if the automatic corrections do too much, undo them and instead put each correction on its own layer. Select Layer > New Adjustment Layer > Levels, then use the Layer palette's Opacity slider to lessen the correction.

Photoshop Elements' Layers palette lets you make opacity corrections.

2 Step Shortly

The key to enlarging is to do it in short steps; enlarging your image 10 times by a factor of 10 percent gives cleaner results than enlarging 100 percent in one pass. Select Image > Resize > Image Size in Elements (Image > Image Size in Photoshop), check all three boxes at the bottom of the window, and select Bicubic from the Resample Image menu. In the Document Size section, change the Width pull-down from Inches to Percent—the Height menu will automatically change to match. Enter 110 in the Width field, and the Height updates itself to match. Click OK.

As they say, slow and steady wins the race.

3 Boost Your P'shop Productivity

Running that 10-percent-enlargement plan takes all of five clicks, but if you use Photoshop proper (version 6 or later), you can cut that click count down to one by making an Action. Just open the Actions palette (Option-F9) and click the Create New Action icon; in the resulting dialog box, supply a name and hot key, then press Record. Now perform your 10-percent-enlargement as in the previous step. When you're done, click Stop on the Actions palette, and your new Action will appear in your default Actions.

Photoshop Actions can automate anything.

4 Automate Elements

Elements has no Actions palette, but you can improvise. Open some images that you want to enlarge and select File > Process Multiple Files. In the resulting window, select Opened Files from the top pull-down menu, choose a destination, uncheck all of the items under Quick Fix, and proceed to the Image Size section. Check Resize Images, select Percent from the Width pull-down menu, and enter 110—with Constrain Proportions checked, Elements will calculate the Height for you. It's not as smooth as using an Action, but then again, Elements doesn't cost you an arm and a leg.

Elements' batch skills are strong.

Niko Coucouvanis knows better than to crack wise about blowing up the president—of Venezuela.

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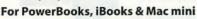
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LETTERS

TINGED WITH SEPIA

As a charter subscriber now in my fifties, I have long accepted the fact that your magazine's humor is geared toward a younger generation. Thanks for surprising me with the nostalgic Charles Maclas ad in the October issue *(Shut Down*, p80). It was so true to the original 1950s comic-book ad that I went back and read it twice with my Amazing X-Ray Specs.—*C. D. Tavares*

A BREAKDOWN IN COMMUNICATION

I had just read Niko Coucouvanis's convoluted method to "Power Your iPod with a 9V Battery" (Oct/05, p62) for about $11 and a lot of heartache, when something ... tingled ... my ... memory. Oh yeah! Roman had just reviewed, in that very same issue (p49), the TuneJuice, which does the same thing in a much slicker (and, considering my wiring skills, safer) package. No offense, guys, but I think I'll shell out the extra eight bucks for the TuneJuice. —*Steve Wust*

The appearance of both articles in the same issue was no mere coincidence—some folks like a thing

done for 'em; others get a major kick out of doin' it themselves. We aim to please all of you.—*Max*

FONT FOIBLE

Your "Frazzled by Fonts" article (Oct/05, p24) contained a slight typo. The URL for "Mac OS X:

Font Locations and Their Purposes" should be http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=106417, not http://docs.*infor*.apple.com/article.html?artnum=106417. Your readers should know that the link works, and the information is good. —*Tim Spaulding*

NANOGAMI

I made this iPod nano origami because, well, I can't afford a real one yet. Download the PDF from http://homepage.mac.com/pockyrevolution/ipod_nano_origami.html, then just cut and fold! —*Roland Saekow*
Zero songs in your pocket!—*Max*

4GB

When your longing for material goods becomes too great, turn to the ancient soul-rejuvenating art of paper folding.

Whoops, sorry about that—you are correct. See, even after writing that article, we're still having font problems.—*Max*

PANORAMA-RAMA

I enjoyed "Make Better Panoramas with PTMac" (Oct/05, p59), especially since I spent a day or two last week looking for a good panorama stitcher. Along with PTMac, I also found the free, open-source Hugin (http://sourceforge.net/project/showfiles.php?group_id=77506) helpful because it supports one thing that PTMac doesn't: Autopano-SIFT, an add-on that finds control points in your images for you. Download the Mono version from http://user.cs.tu-berlin.de/~nowozin/autopano-sift.—*Andrew Seidl*

Survey Says

Here are the results of our August 2005 survey. Check out www.macaddict.com each month for a new online poll.

DO YOU PLAN ON BUYING APPLE'S NEW MIGHTY MOUSE?

18% Nope, I've been using a scroll-wheel mouse for years and I don't want to switch.

4% Nope, all those buttons and stuff confuse me.

4% Nope, the side-squeeze buttons look too small for my normal-adult-size hands.

37% Maybe, but I need to test-drive it at an Apple Store first.

37% The Steve has spoken; I will buy.

535 respondents

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TIGER ISLAND

Our project in school was to create an "imaginary island," so I used Photoshop to create Tiger Island, with Spotlight City ("the only place in the world where it never gets dark"), iPod mountain, and the FireWire—the only river in the world that is always 180 degrees Fahrenheit and runs at over 900 mph, which is how fast FireWire seems to be. Check out the finished version!
—*Jakey Simonds-Malamud*

Be sure to visit picturesque Automator Canyon, but avoid the Deserted Windows Desert—nasty bugs and worms dwell out yonder.

Spot-on rendition, Jakey. Believe it or not, I'm *from* Spotlight City—but it's a bit too overcrowded and difficult to navigate, if you ask me. And when I was a wee doodle, I actually used to camp out in Dashboard Forest, where the trees do indeed "disappear and reappear within 1 to 2 seconds."—*Max*

It warms Niko's hearts to see how-tos used in the service of such noble causes.

POLLO LOCO

I have a basement full of vinyl (I know, I'm old), and I've finally gotten around to transferring my trusty old vinyl albums to CDs. My only disappointment was my inability to scan 12-inch album covers on my flatbed scanner. Then I saw your "Make Simple Panoramas" how-to (Oct/05, p58). Problem solved! It was a little labor intensive, but worth it for rare treasures like my coveted *Chickenman* album.
—*Tim Donohoe*

THE LOVE CHILD

When I saw "Kill RAM-hogging routines!" on your October cover, I instantly thought there's no way you'd tell the *MacAddict* public to turn off Dashboard, because it's Apple's love child—but sure enough, you guys did. Good job.—*Stoner, via the MacAddict Forums*

Thanks, though I hope you got that name from your tendency to hurl rocks at sinners—otherwise, I'm telling your mother.—*Max*

NANOTECHNOLOGY

Now that we've got the iPod nano, how long will it be before we get the iMac nano? Maybe next year?
—*Donald Zirlin*

Hopefully the keyboard isn't proportionally sized.

iMac nano
Dual 3GHz G5s. Impossibly small.

WIN!

Win an EOS Digital Rebel XT!

When we reviewed Canon's EOS Digital Rebel XT (●●●●○ Sep/05, p44), we said, "When it comes to the Rebel's excellent image quality, we could go on for hours." Now, if you write the best caption for the picture below, this top-quality 8-megapixel digital SLR (complete with 18mm-to-55mm EF-S zoom lens) could be your trusted shooting companion for hours, days, months, and years. **Only one entry per contestant.**

Entry Form

Write a caption for this picture.

CONTESTANT INFORMATION

Full Name:

Address:

City: State:

Zip:

Email or telephone:

Send email entries to: contest@macaddict.com with the subject: Rebel Contest
(Don't forget to include your address information!)
Send snail-mail entries to: Rebel Contest, *MacAddict* magazine,
150 North Hill Dr., Ste. 40, Brisbane, CA 94005.
Deadline for entry: December 31, 2005.
Contest results will appear in our Apr/06 issue.

Winner!
Congratulations to William Kohuth, whose caption won him an Other World Computing 400GB Mercury Elite-AL Pro 800/400+USB2 Combo hard drive ($379.99, www.macsales .com). And a quick note to the 121 readers who offered "Intel Inside": Originality counts for 33 percent of your score.

"Hey you kids, get off the lawn!"

iPod Engravings You'll Never See

Soon after the recent announcement of a Harry Potter–themed iPod (www .apple.com/itunes/harrypotter), complete with an engraved Hogwarts crest, we received word from our spies embedded deep within Apple's product-development fortress that J.K. Rowling's megapopular oeuvre wasn't the first aural pleasure that the 'Podmeisters had proposed. In fact, as proven by this photo—smuggled out of Cupertino at great personal risk—there were at least three other audiobook-equipped iPods under consideration. Take a gander at their contents, and—for once—be glad that Apple Marketing stepped in.

The Oxford English Dictionary
Over 290,500 words. In order.
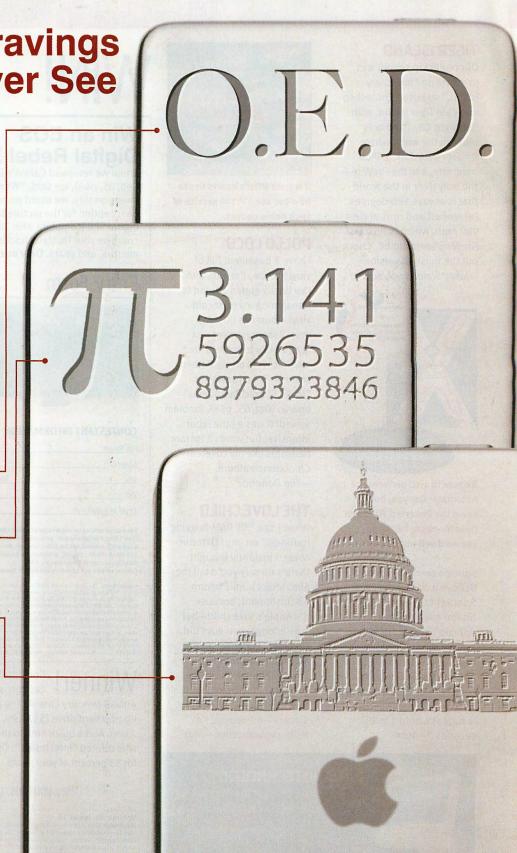
The Value of Pi to 200 Million Digits
Amedeo Avogadro's favorite sequence? 6021023.
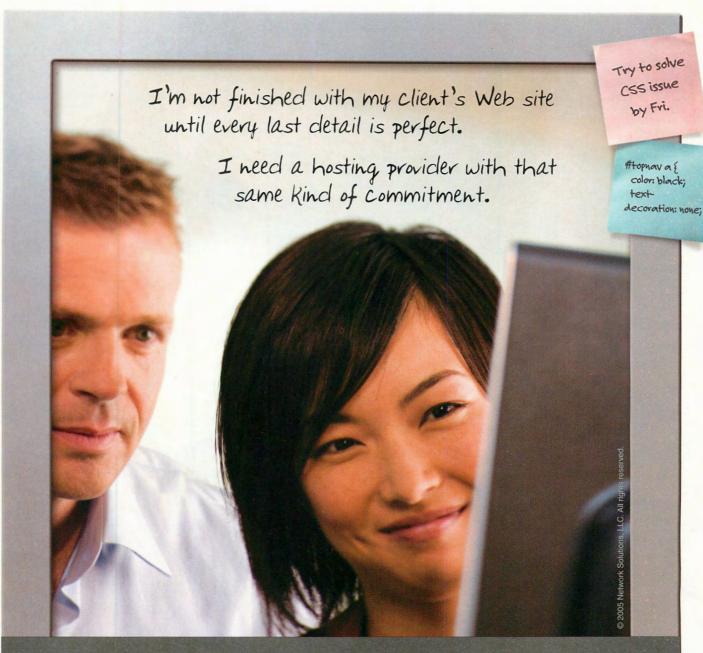
Congressional Record, Volume 102 (1956)
Don't miss the thrilling bolt-thread-standardization bill on page 634.

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